

Canada not to move embassy

OTTAWA (AP) — Canada has no intention of moving its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv despite a request by Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said Friday. The prime minister said Mr. Shamir must have "misunderstood" him during a 30-minute meeting Friday morning. Mr. Shamir told reporters after the session that he talked about moving the Canadian embassy and Mr. Mulroney was "aware of our position and he will consider it." Mr. Mulroney initially refused to answer reporters' questions but finally commented on the meeting an hour later. "Our position is that the matter of the embassy is part of the comprehensive peace initiative for the entire (Middle East) region," Mr. Mulroney said.



British businessman kidnapped

BEIRUT (AP) — Brian Levick, a British businessman who has worked in Beirut for the past 18 months, was kidnapped in west Beirut on Friday. He was the second British national to be abducted in the western sector of the capital in as many days. On Thursday, Geoffrey Nash, 60, a metallurgist who works for the Lebanese government, was forced by three gunmen into a yellow car and driven off. David Miers, the British ambassador in Lebanon, confirmed reports of Levick's kidnapping and said the victim was the managing director of the Coral Oil Company in Lebanon. He said Mr. Levick was born in 1926. "He was dragged from his car by five armed gunmen, according to witnesses, Mr. Miers told the Associated Press. He said that the abduction occurred in the Raouche section of west Beirut. He said that as of mid-evening, there had been no demand for a ransom."

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King contacts Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday contacted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to inquire about the latest developments of the military situation on the Gulf war front. King Hussein paid tribute to the "courageous stand of Iraq in the face of the Iranian aggression and stressed his confidence that Iraq will be triumphant in its war with Iran because the Iraqis are fighting a just war in defence of its land sovereignty and the dignity of Arab Nation," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Sudan links coup plot to Iran

CAIRO (R) — Sudan has linked Iran with an alleged plot by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood to seize power in Khartoum, the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram reported Friday. Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri cracked down on the Muslim Brothers this week and said a foreign power had tried to export its teachings through the brotherhood. He did not name the country, but Al-Ahram quoted Sudanese Information Minister Ali Shammou as saying in an interview: "The country which President Numeiri referred to is Iran."

Morocco seeks U.N. role in Sahara

LA'YOUN, Western Sahara (R) — The Moroccan parliament has unanimously appealed to the U.N. to supervise a self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara. At an extraordinary session during King Hassan's first visit to the disputed area, the assembly said the Organisation of African Unity was incapable of solving the nine-year-old conflict between Polisario guerrillas and Morocco.

IRA claims 'previous' attacks on Thatcher

DUBLIN (AP) — An Irish Republican Army (IRA) leader hinted Friday the guerrillas tried to kill British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before an Oct. 12 attempt to blow her up at Brighton's Grand Hotel. The unnamed guerrilla, identified only as a member of the outlawed IRA's ruling army council, was quoted as saying in an interview with the Irish Press daily that the Brighton bombing was "the first time an attempt on her life hit the newspapers." He declined to give any details of the reportedly abortive attempts. Five people were killed in the bombing of the hotel, where Mrs. Thatcher and her cabinet were staying during the Conservative Party's annual conference.

Nicaragua urges Indian help to end war

NEW DELHI (AP) — Nicaragua has urged India, leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, to help end the "proxy war" against it by the United States, a Nicaraguan minister said Friday. "India is the biggest democracy in the world and is in a firm position to persuade the concerned countries to halt this maddening war."

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Iraq says tank columns moving into Huwaizeh

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday its tank columns were advancing into the southern Huwaizeh marshlands, evicting Iranian invaders and recapturing most that region.

But the Iranians insisted in war communiques issued in Tehran that their forces were continuing battles with the Iraqis, near the Basra-Baghdad highway.

Travellers reaching here from the southern Iraqi province said that scores of jet fighters and helicopter gunships were sighted in action over Huwaizeh, while fresh reinforcements of tanks were moving into it.

Iraqi military spokesmen in war communiques issued here indicated that the Iranian attempt to establish a brigade in Huwaizeh and drive a wedge into the Basra-Baghdad highway have largely been thwarted.

Both warring sides were issuing contradictory claims, with the Iraqis claiming to have taken 500 Iraqi prisoners and killed a total of 1,200 Iraqi combatants in four days of battles in and around Huwaizeh.

The Iraqis dismissed this as exaggerated, displaying on television scenes from the battlefield, which was littered with corpses of Iranian soldiers and charred military vehicles.

A war communique issued here said the Iraqi tanks were operating for the first time in an impassable region, where in three days of combat action "the (Iranian) enemy was driven back at enormous losses in lives and hardware."

The Tehran leadership has threatened to unleash barrages of surface-to-surface missile attacks on all Iraqi cities, except the four regions holding Islamic shrines.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei reiterated the threat during a Friday prayer meeting.

As Mr. Khamenei spoke, an unidentified man in the middle of

the praying crowds, with a bomb strapped to his waist blew himself up, killing six people and injuring 10 others (See page 2).

Mr. Khamenei warned that a major offensive was being planned. "This major attack, which will be a determining one, requires certain conditions and it will be launched when the conditions are right and it will not be launched now," he was quoted as saying.

The ground battle which started with an Iranian onslaught Monday came in the midst of air and rocket attacks by the two warring parties on each other's cities and towns, in violation of a moratorium on civilian shelling arranged through the United Nations last June.

The attacks on civilian targets marked a new escalation in the Gulf war which is about to enter its 55th month.

Earlier Friday, an Iraqi Information Ministry official said an explosion at the government Rafidain Bank early Thursday was caused by saboteurs and not an Iranian missile.

"We utterly deny the blast was caused by a surface-to-surface missile... the blast was due to an explosive charge," the official said. "Iran's claim was meant to raise the morale of the people inside Iran."

Police cordoned off a large area around the 13-storey building in central Baghdad, but reporters who visited the scene said the damage looked as if it had been caused by a internal explosion.

A retired police officer in the area estimated the size of the blast at around 100 kilograms of TNT.

Lebanon army soldiers caught in crossfire as Falangist rift widens

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rebel Falangist militiamen with close ties with Israel seized the last position loyal to President Amin Gemayel in east Beirut Friday, and Lebanese army troops came under fire as they deployed to try to end the uprising.

And after Syria warned again it would not tolerate the four-day-old mutiny, breakaway Falangist militia commanders extended an olive branch to both the Damascus government and its Lebanese allies.

The eight breakaway commanders grouped in a so-called "emergency committee" issued a communique Friday afternoon pledging new measures to "restore normalcy" in the embattled areas of the mostly Christian heartland and to reopen all roads.

The commanders also called for "negotiations and contacts with all the Lebanese factions and with Syria" and the formation of a "Christian council" to represent the Christian point of view in future negotiations to settle Lebanon's 10-year civil war.

The mutineers, led by rightist "Lebanese Forces" northern commander Samir Geagea, overruled Tuesday staged a relatively bloodless takeover of most of the Christian communities in the north of Beirut. In recent days it has been consolidating its control in east Beirut, the mostly Christian sector of the capital.

Mr. Geagea and his supporters said they objected to the Syrian stance of the Lebanese government. Syria has been trying to mediate a settlement in Lebanon since the collapse of U.S. diplomacy in the spring of 1984.

Militia sources told the Associated Press that two people were killed including one militiaman, and six others wounded Friday in fighting between Gemayel and Geagea loyalists.

The mutiny in the mainly Christian militia force not only threatens to undercut Mr. Gemayel's influence in the Christian community, but also has weakened his influence as the representative of the Christians in negotiations with Muslim leaders for a national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Syria, however, insisted again Friday that it will continue supporting the Lebanese president and warned it "will not take an uncaring attitude toward these developments."



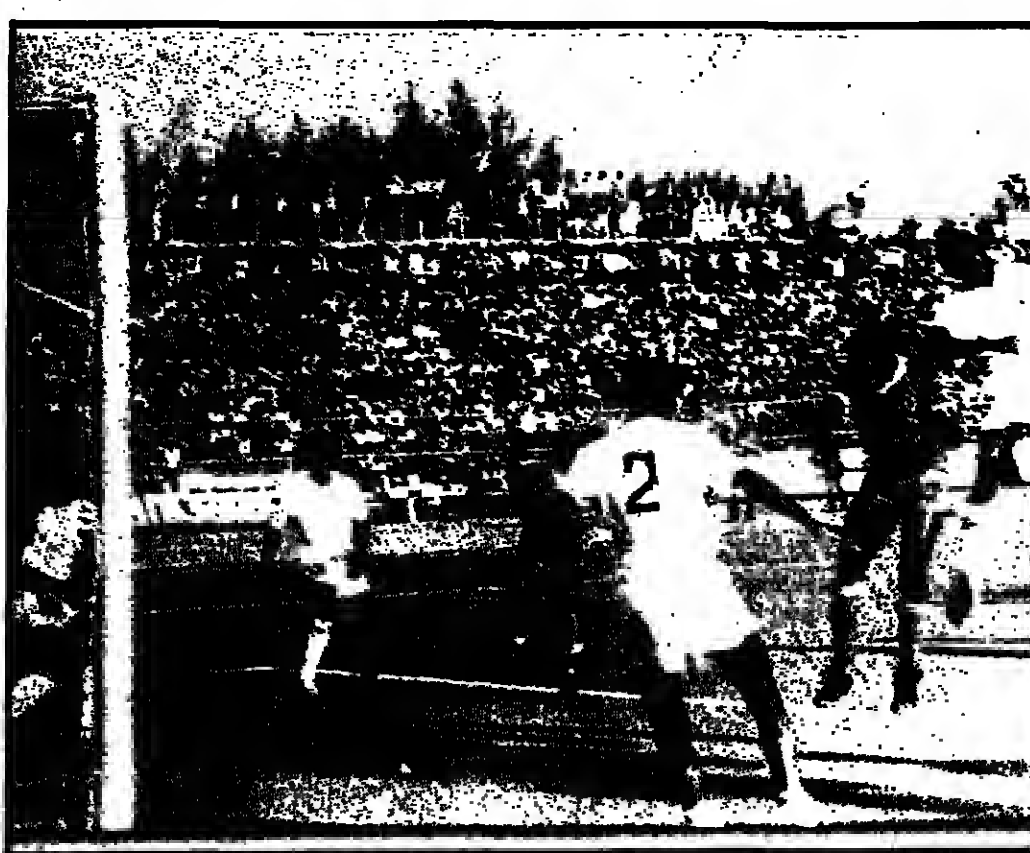
Samir Geagea, pro-Israeli commander of the Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militia, gets out of his car Friday on his way to a meeting with the leaders of Lebanon's Christian community (AP wirephoto)

Lebanese army sources told the AP two Lebanese soldiers also were injured when militiamen opened up with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at an army unit that was deploying at a key road intersection on Beirut's eastern outskirts.

Despite the firing, the army's 83rd Battalion supported by 14 armoured personnel carriers and several jeep-mounted 106-millimetre recoilless guns, deployed on major streets and highway intersections in preparation for reopening roads barricaded earlier by the militiamen.

Radio stations said they expected the roads to be reopened within 24 hours.

"Syria wishes to emphasise its support for the Lebanese legitimacy," said a Syrian government statement. "I described the uprising as a suspicious move



JORDAN BEATS QATAR: Qatar's Mubarak Anbar (in white) clears the ball from his country's goal before it gets to Ghassan Juma'a during a World Cup qualifier played Friday at the Sports City, Jordan won the match 1-0 through a goal scored by Issam Al Taly (See story on page 6).

Mubarak holds talks with British Labour leaders, meets Kohl today

LONDON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met with British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine and leaders of the parliamentary opposition Friday, the Egyptian embassy said.

No details were immediately available. Before conferring with Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Mubarak met with opposition Labour party leader Neil Kinnock and Labour's shadow Defence Secretary Denis Healey, embassy spokesman Anwar Galal said.

Mr. Mubarak arrived here Thursday on route home from the United States and met with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He leaves for Egypt Saturday.

In Bonn, the West German government announced Friday that Mr. Mubarak and Chancellor Helmut Kohl will meet Saturday at Frankfurt airport.

Mr. Mubarak was slated to stop over in Frankfurt en route home from the United States where he held talks with President Ronald Reagan, according to a government statement.

No details of the talks were given, but the two leaders are expected to discuss bilateral relations and Middle East affairs.

Meanwhile in Tel Aviv, Egypt's top diplomat in Israel was quoted as saying Cairo will continue to press the United States to meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

A Reagan administration refusal to participate in such a meeting likely will put an end to the

latest Middle East peace initiative offered by President Mubarak, said Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Abdul Aziz Bassiouny.

Mr. Bassiouny told the Associated Press that Egypt wants a joint Arab delegation to meet with the United States before negotiating directly with Israel to gain legitimacy and "international blessing."

"We don't want the United States to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We only want them to listen, to make sure for themselves that the delegation is keen to achieve peace," Mr. Bassiouny said.

"Then negotiations can start directly with Israel."

If the U.S. refuses to meet such an Arab delegation, Mr. Bassiouny said, "we would be very reluctant to move into the next step and open negotiations with Israel."

Mr. Mubarak, in Washington this week, failed to secure a U.S. endorsement for his three-stage plan calling for talks between the U.S. and the joint Arab delegation, followed by talks with Israel directly and finally an international conference.

But Mr. Bassiouny, Egypt's highest ranking diplomat in Israel since the ambassador was recalled in 1982 in protest of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the massacre of Palestinians by Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen, said Egypt had not expected imm-

ediate U.S. approval of Mr. Mubarak's initiative.

"We are a practical people. We don't expect a quick reply to our proposal," he said. "But we hope that the United States will realise that this is a very good chance to move to solve the problem, and that a peace with (Palestine Liberation Organisation — PLO — Chairman, Yasser) Arafat will be stronger than a peace without Arafat."

The Egyptian diplomat said a joint delegation would include PLO members because "all Palestinians are members of the PLO," but he added: "There are many Palestinians now who are very moderate."

The United States has refused to negotiate with the PLO until it recognises Israel.

Mr. Bassiouny also said Mr. Mubarak probably would agree to a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres if Mr. Peres agreed to submit a border dispute to arbitration.

The dispute centres around Taha, a 1,000-square-metre stretch of Red Sea beach front that both countries claim as their own. Israel has rejected Egypt's proposal that the issue be submitted to arbitration.

"A summit meeting is not our aim. Our aim is to solve the problems," Mr. Bassiouny said. "President Mubarak will agree to meet Peres any time Peres shows he is ready to achieve real progress. So the ball is in Israel's court."

2 Lebanese troops, 3 Amal men killed in Israeli ambush in south

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli troops Friday ambushed and killed two Lebanese army soldiers and three Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen just outside Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon, security sources said.

An Israeli force fired on a car carrying the soldiers and militiamen near the Lebanese army-held village of Kawthariyet Al Sidon, 17 kilometres south of Sidon, the sources said.

The Israelis had infiltrated from a position east of Kawthariyet Al

Siad, the scene of several clashes between Lebanese and Israeli troops, they added.

The dead included Amal's local commander. Since the first battle between Israeli and Lebanese troops on Feb. 27, Amal fighters have operated openly alongside the army beyond Israel's present "front line" in the south.

Security sources said Israel had moved two mechanised brigades into the south in the past two days. There was no immediate explanation for the move.

Israeli troops Friday raided the village of Barish, 14 kilometres east of Tyre, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force said.

The spokesman, Timur Goksel, said about 100 soldiers in 12 armoured troop carriers sealed off the village at dawn, interrogated inhabitants and searched houses, observed by Finnish and French U.N. troops.

Israeli troops Thursday abandoned a stronghold near Deir Oanoun village, north-east of Tyre, security sources said.

Gorbachev seeks better Chinese ties

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev, the new Soviet leader, has called for a significant improvement in Soviet-Chinese relations but has delivered a stern rebuke to Pakistan's General Zia Ul-Haq over Afghanistan.

Mr. Gorbachev Thursday wound up two days of hectic meetings with world leaders who attended the funeral on Wednesday of President Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Gorbachev told Deputy Prime Minister Li Peng of China, with which the Soviet Union has been in conflict over ideological and foreign policy questions for more than 20 years, that he wanted a "serious improvement" in

relations. Chinese officials in Moscow said Mr. Li told Mr. Gorbachev that China also wanted to work for better political, economic, scientific and cultural ties.

Mr. Gorbachev's message to Pakistan was altogether different. The official Soviet news agency TASS said he condemned Gen. Zia's support for rebels who have been fighting Soviet and Afghan government forces in Afghanistan since December 1979.

"It was stressed that this cannot but affect in the most negative way Soviet-Pakistani relations," TASS said, using the strongest language of all the reports it issued on Mr.

Gorbachev's contacts with foreign leaders.

Mr. Gorbachev's stern warning to Gen. Zia contrasted markedly with the warm reception which he gave two days ago to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose assassinated mother Indira built up good relations with Moscow.

Western leaders who met Mr. Gorbachev said they were impressed with his air of authority and grasp of detail. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany called him "collected, energetic and resolute." French President Francois Mitterrand said he "a calm man who seems willing to take on problems firmly."

Mahmoud Al Kayed reelected president of Jordan Press Association

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mahmoud Al Kayed, a prominent journalist and editor in chief of the Arabic newspaper Al-Rai was reelected president of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA) during the JPA's general assembly meeting at the Professionals-Associations Complex Friday.

During the meeting, which was attended by 138 members of the 144-strong JPA, a new JPA board was elected, the association's annual administrative, financial and professional reports were discussed. The association's 1985 budget was also endorsed Friday.

The meeting reviewed in depth an existing law on paying pension to retired journalists and emphasised the need to come out with a new law in order to "ensure the psychological and financial security of journalists in Jordan."

Journalists participating in Friday's meeting demanded that the various private press organisations pay their due amount of money to the association which, according to the association bylaw, is a minimum JD 6,000 a year.



Mahmoud Al Kayed

The issue of health insurance for journalists was another point raised during the meeting. Host members complained that they are not benefiting from the JPA health insurance scheme because they are medically insured somewhere else.

In reply to the complaint, Mr. Kayed promised that the JPA board will look into the issue and ensure that all journalists in Jordan are medically insured. He also suggested that all editors working in Jordan Television and Radio Jordan be admitted as JPA members.

During the meeting, one of the members, Mohammad Saeed, asked the association board to officially condemn the American stand and position towards Israeli practices in occupied South Lebanon. Mr. Saeed also requested the JPA to coordinate and cooperate with the other Arab press associations in different fields.

Other issues, such as housing, professional financial matters, were also raised and were scheduled to be discussed by the new association board at later meetings.

The new JPA board elected Friday comprises of Mr. Fakhri Abu Hamda, Mr. Fayed Hamdan, and Mr. Abdul Salam Al Tarawneh representing the three Arabic-language daily news papers in Jordan. Mr. Mohammad Daoudiah, Mr. Bader Abdul Haq, and Mr. Saeed representing editors, and Mr. Hassan Akeel, Mr. Sameeh Haddad and Mr. Kamel Masaedah representing government-owned press institutions.

Tehran bomb kills 6 during Friday prayers

TEHRAN (R) — A bomb went off among tens of thousands of Tehran Friday prayer worshippers during a sermon by President Ali Khamenei, killing six people, including the bomber, the official media reported.

As the Iran-Iraq war continued to escalate, diplomats here reported special flights being laid on to evacuate foreigners from the Iranian capital.

After Friday's bomb, Mr. Khamenei calmly resumed his speech on Tehran University campus after a three-minute commotion. He blamed the Paris-based opposition Mujahadeen group.

But Iran's National News Agency IRNA implied collusion by Iraq, whose warplanes overflew Tehran within half an hour of the blast and met heavy anti-aircraft fire.

IRNA said the air intrusion was "apparently timed unsuccessfully to coincide with the explosion at the university" so Iraq could have claimed its planes raided the Friday prayer meeting.

The agency said a man carrying a home-made bomb among his

waist was blown up at 12:33 p.m. (0903 GMT), killing himself and five worshippers and wounding 10. It did not say whether the man had been sitting among worshippers or moving among them and there was no exact indication as to the target of the attack.

Mr. Khamenei was unhurt. As usual, his sermon was being broadcast live on Tehran Radio and listeners clearly heard the blast, followed by chants of "Allah-O-Akbar" (God is Great) from worshippers and a voice urging calm.

IRNA said the Iraqi planes flew over the capital 30 minutes later but made no mention of any bombs being dropped or rockets fired.

After two Iraqi air raids this week killed a reported 10 people in Tehran, residents have become jittery and foreigners have been

queuing up for seats on flights out of the country.

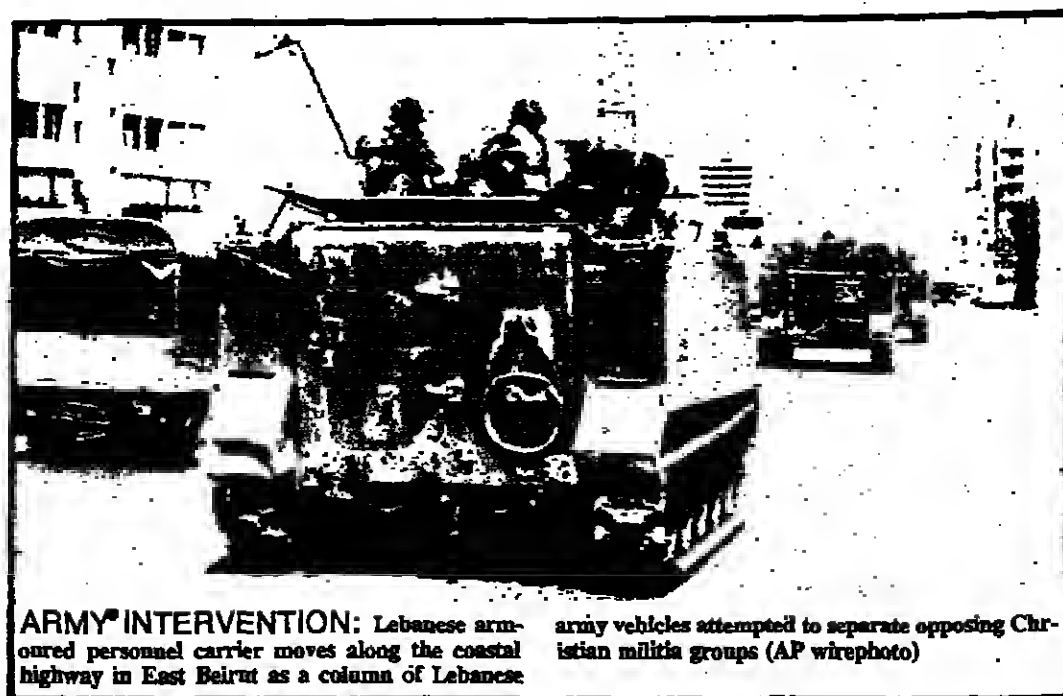
The Italian airline Alitalia flew a special flight into Tehran's Mehrabad Airport Friday to pick up Italian nationals and others, and the West German airline Lufthansa was expected to send in a similar flight on Sunday, diplomats said. They said no Western embassy had yet recommended evacuation.

President Khamenei, who lost the use of his right arm when a booby-trapped tape recorder blew up as he spoke in a mosque four years ago, appeared unharmed by Friday's blast.

"We will retaliate for this savage act with the utmost strength and power," he said after continuing his sermon.

Iran's latest war communique, meanwhile, said Iranian forces had killed or wounded 1,200 Iraqis since last Monday in the latest Iranian thrust in southern Iraq.

Iran has given few details of the thrust itself, saying its aims were limited and that it was merely in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian towns.



ARMY INTERVENTION: Lebanese army vehicles attempted to separate opposing Christian militia groups (AP wirephoto)

U.S. declines comments on further evacuation

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. embassy officials declined "for security reasons" on Friday to say whether more American diplomats would be evacuated from this tense capital.

Mark Foulon, acting embassy spokesman, said that "the ambassador and the other personnel are here and the embassy is functioning." He added: "For security reasons, we cannot comment on personnel numbers or movements."

Mr. Foulon was reached by telephone at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew in the Christian suburb of Yarz, six kilometers east of Beirut.

Eighteen Americans, some of them diplomats, were moved by helicopter from Beirut to the near-

by island of Cyprus on Thursday in what White House officials said was an evacuation necessitated by a militia rebellion in mainly Christian east Beirut.

Samir Geagea, a Falangist commander of the "Lebanese Forces" militia with ties to Israel, broke overnight Tuesday from the Falange Party of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

Mr. Geagea and his supporters, who seized control of much of the Christian heartland north of the capital, have demanded that Mr. Gemayel and the party reconsider their increasingly pro-Syrian stance.

The rebellion has created tension in east Beirut, where most U.S. diplomats now live and work, with militiamen of varying loy-

alties setting up roadblocks and, occasionally, clashing.

At the same time, a number of threats were leveled against Americans in connection with the U.S. veto earlier this week of a Lebanese-sponsored U.N. Security Council resolution critical of the raids Israeli army has been conducting in occupied South Lebanon.

U.S. officials here have been less than forthcoming about the situation. One embassy official who twice on Wednesday told the Associated Press that "we are not planning any evacuation" and "there are no orders to evacuate" was among those taken out by helicopter on Thursday. Associates said he had decided to take his home leave early.

Rabin: Faster pace of Lebanon pullout likely

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is likely to increase the pace of its withdrawal from Lebanon by shortening the two remaining stages of its pullback and partly combining them, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Friday.

Interviewed by the daily Yediot Ahronot, Mr. Rabin said that "I estimate that everything will be done to shorten (the second stage), and theoretically there exists a possibility of combining parts of stage two and stage three. I hope the government will take decisions in time in order to enable a faster withdrawal."

However, refusing to give his reasons, Mr. Rabin said he did not think that Israeli troops could withdraw from Lebanon in one combined stage.

The government has said that the second stage, Israel's withdrawal from its confrontation line with Syria in eastern Lebanon, should be completed by late April or early May. Two weeks ago Mr. Rabin said the third stage, designed to bring Israeli troops back to their border, would be completed by Sept. 15, the Jewish New Year.

The first two stages were authorized by a large majority of the Israeli cabinet, but the third and last stage is likely to encounter more opposition among right-wing Likud Party ministers who argue that Israel should create a broad security zone, up to 25 kilometres deep, north of the Israeli border.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that the speed of withdrawal would depend only on

military logistics and not on political pressures.

A growing number of parliament members has called for a complete withdrawal by early May, prompted at least in part by the increasingly violent attacks against Israeli troops. A suicide truck bomb killed 12 soldiers and wounded 14 last Sunday, and other suicide bombing attempts have been reported. Newspaper reports have said the Israeli army favours a speedy withdrawal.

The liberal Haaretz newspaper quoted military sources as saying that the third stage of the withdrawal could be accomplished in a few days and that the speed of the second stage would be dictated by the weather. The hilly regions of east Lebanon are currently under snow.

However, Israel Radio on Friday quoted military Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Moshe Levy as saying that people who thought the two stages could be carried out as one "do not know what are talking about."

Mr. Rabin expressed considerable pessimism concerning the long-term effects of current Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim hostility toward Israel, saying that it could well continue even after Israel withdraws from Lebanon.

"I believe there is a real danger that the Shi'ite leadership... has already passed the 12th hour (the point of no return) in its hatred of the Israeli army and perhaps also of Israel," Yediot Ahronot quoted Mr. Rabin as saying. This could lead to attempts to attack Israel even after its withdrawal, he added.

Israeli Labour Party gains support in polls

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party has gained support since Israel's July 1984 election but not enough to set up a government on its own, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

The Smith Research Centre poll showed 50 per cent of those surveyed favoured Labour and its allies, while 44 per cent favoured the right-wing Likud and its allies. The results represented a three per cent gain for Labour and an 8 per cent drop for Likud.

The poll was conducted among 1,300 Jewish Israelis during the last week of February and had about a 2 per cent margin of error.

The latest survey by the respected pollster showed that the shift to Labour would still not be enough to allow Mr. Peres to set up a government on his own, unless it got Palestinian support, which was not taken into account in the poll, or was backed by most of the 5 per cent who said they had no preference.

The poll reported that Mr. Peres' personal popularity was "quite high" and the pro-Labour newspaper Davar claimed it equaled that of former Likud Prime Minister Menachem Begin at his peak.

It said 65 per cent of those questioned believed Mr. Peres was doing a good job, while 49 per cent thought Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Bloc was doing a good job.

Israelis face new kind of resistance war in South Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — At a memorial service in this Shi'ite Muslim port city, Ismail Atawi insisted on being congratulated instead of consoled because his brother died in a holy cause — fighting Israel's occupation.

"Do not say you are sorry. Say congratulations," Mr. Atawi, a dentist whose brother Haj Khalil Atawi died in a bomb-blast in the nearby village of Maarak, told reporters. "We win or we go to heaven. Either way, praise Allah."

Ismail Atawi, friends, relatives and Shi'ite Muslim clergymen who crowded into a sparsely furnished apartment for the memorial service, told of 50,000 all blamed the death on Israel's army although Israel denied any role.

Their views reflect the increasing role religion is playing in the Shi'ite resistance to Israel's presence in South Lebanon, fueling such acts of martyrdom as the suicide truck bomb that killed 12 Israeli soldiers and wounded 14 last Sunday.

Israel has responded with a controversial policy called the "iron fist," a stepped-up use of force against villages suspected of aiding the resistance fighters and harsher regulations affecting civilians.

But the rising cycle of violence has triggered a national debate in Israel and pressure on the gov-

ernment to speed up its withdrawal from South Lebanon, which began Feb. 16 and is not due to be completed in the Shi'ite sector until at least September.

Israeli officials have expressed astonishment that the guerrilla campaign would intensify while its army is in the midst of a three-stage withdrawal from Lebanon.

"A spirit of madness is passing over that war-torn country, where reason and common sense are not used but rather suicide, blood murder..." deputy Israeli Prime Minister David Levy said on Israel Radio.

Traditionally, the Shi'ite in South Lebanon have been farmers, and fishermen at the bottom of the social and economic ladder. The deepening influence of religion is "a direct outcome of isolation and a vacuum in local leadership," said a Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The influx of Palestinian commandos in the mid-1970s drove out the traditional leaders — land-owning families who for generations had controlled the villages. Shi'ite farmers formed militias to fight the Palestinian uprising and initially welcomed Israel's June 1982 invasion that routed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But Israel's occupation has become increasingly stifling to the

economy and freedom of movement of the people. Iranian-influenced clergy have stepped in to offer leadership, and the attacks on the Israelis have been concentrated in areas where the clergy are the strongest — a cluster of villages east of Tyre called "the arc of the resistance" and the Nabatiyah area.

"They are basically turning to religion as a last resort, out of frustration with Israel's occupation," said the diplomat.

Many observers believe the conflict began in October 1983 when town of Nabatiyah. The clergy, some trained in Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic Republic of Iran, then issued religious edicts called "fatwas" urging the population to kill Israeli soldiers.

Speaking to reporters at an Israeli base near Tyre last week, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said, "I believe there is more and more Khomeinist, fundamentalist influence among certain sectors of the Shi'ite community. It might be that this religious fanaticism has led to this type of (anti-Israeli) activity."

Mr. Rabin suggested Israel might consider with drawing earlier than planned from Shi'ite sectors of the South, but Prime Minister Shimon Peres' bipartisan government is divided on whether

Masri says no diversity with PLO over accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has denied the existence of any differences with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over their recent agreement designed to reactivate efforts for a Middle East peace.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri was quoted by the weekly Qatari magazine Al Uruba as saying that both sides are committed to the Feb. 11 agreement which has won backing from the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

What emerged after the signing of the agreement was the need for a joint clarification of its provisions, and this has now been done, the minister said.

He said that the agreement won support of the Palestinian people since it backs their struggle "for liberation, and provides for a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands."

With reference to Egyptian-Jordanian relations, Mr. Masri

said that the recent summit talks between King Hussein and President Mubarak was designed to clarify a number of points raised in the light of Mr. Mubarak's proposals and his visit to the United States.

He said that the Jordanian-Egyptian moves are designed to influence Washington into taking a new stand vis a vis the Middle East problem.

"At present the international arena is witnessing a more positive European role that favours the establishment of a just peace," the minister pointed out.

With reference to inter-Arab relations, Mr. Masri said that Jordan continues to call for an Arab summit to end differences among Arab countries. An Arab summit, he said is normally held to solve differences, "and now it has become more urgent than ever before."

New Zealand examines Sinai force options

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand is studying ways of remaining in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) after Australia withdraws from the joint operation next year, Prime Minister David Lange told Reuters.

"Australia has kept us informed of its plan to withdraw from the MFO in 1986 and as our men form part of an integrated ANZAC (Australian-New Zealand) unit within the MFO we have... had to look at the implications of their

decision," he said.

New Zealand supplies pilots and support technicians for the joint helicopter unit in the MFO and Mr. Lange said there were clear logistical difficulties in remaining at the El Gorah Base near the Israeli border after the Australian pull-out.

But he said the MFO was a step towards peace and stability in the region "and New Zealand wishes to continue to play its part in that."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL

06:00	Morning News
06:25	Children's Programme
06:35	English Teaching
06:50	First Aid
17:00	Kortan
17:10	Cartoons
17:30	Children's Programmes
18:05	Animals Animals
18:25	Casualty Cases
18:50	Local Programme
19:20	Programme Review
19:30	News Programme
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:05	Programme Review
21:30	Arabic Film
22:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Film Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30	German Programme: New Clones for Old Tanks
18:00	Des chiffres et des lettres
18:20	L'école des fans
19:00	News in French
19:15	L'appartement
19:30	News in English
19:50	Orson Welles
21:00	Perspective
21:10	Saturday Variety Show
21:30	News in English
22:15	Feature film: The Double Man

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM	& partly on 9560 KHz, SW
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session contd.
13:00	News Summary
14:00	Pop Session contd.
14:10	Jordan Weekly
14:30	Musical
15:00	News Summary
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Talking Points
17:30	Animal Vegetable Mineral
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Top Twenty
19:00	Date with a Star
20:00	The 15th Century A.H.
20:30	The Young Sound
21:00	News Summary
21:05	25 Years of Rock

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

66:00 Newsweek 66:30 This Week 66:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections 6:59

World News 67:00 News Summary 67:10	67:30 About Britain 67:45 The World Today 68:00 Newsweek 68:30 Album Time 68:50 World News 69:00 24 Hours: News Summary 69:30 From the Weekends 69:45 Network UK 19:00 World News 19:09 Reflections 19:15 A Jolly Good Show 19:30 World News 19:39 British Press Review 19:45 The World Today 1:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Romantic Piano 12:00 News Summary 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 People and Politics 12:30 Robert Mayer Concert 14:15 Anybody Can 14:45 Network UK 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Country Music Profile 16:00 News Summary 16:10 News in Hebrew 16:30 Saturday Special 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 Sports News Summary: Saturday Special 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Play of the Week: More Out Than In 21:00 News Summary: Play of the Week: More Out Than In 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Jazz for the Aiding 23:00 News Summary: In Spite of Ourselves 23:15 What's New 23:30 People and Politics 24:00 World News 66:09 From our own Correspondent 66:30 New Ideas
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VOICE OF AMERICA

1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 15210 KHz.

66:00 VOA Morning News. Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minute past the hour.	17:00 News 17:10 This Week 17:30 Press Conference USA 18:00 News 18:10 American viewpoints 18:30 Special English News Features 19:00 News 19:10 Weekend 20:00 News 20:10 Close-up 20:30 Special English News and Features 21:00 News 21:10 American Viewpoints 21:30 Press Conference USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA (Jazz) 23:00 Weekend Survey of World News.
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of local engineering industries at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

66:00 Newsweek 66:30 This Week 66:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections 6:59

World News 67:00 News Summary 67:10	67:30 About Britain 67:45 The World Today 68:00 Newsweek 68:30 Album Time 68:50 World News 69:00 24 Hours: News Summary 69:30 From the Weekends 69:45 Network UK 19:00 World News 19:09 Reflections 19:15 A Jolly Good Show 19:30 World News 19:39 British Press Review 19:45 The World Today 1:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Romantic Piano 12:00 News Summary 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 People and Politics 12:30 Robert Mayer Concert 14:15 Anybody Can 14:45 Network UK 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Country Music Profile 16:00 News Summary 16:10 News in Hebrew 16:30 Saturday Special 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 Sports News Summary: Saturday Special 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Play of the Week: More Out Than In 21:00 News Summary: Play of the Week: More Out Than In 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Jazz for the Aiding 23:00 News Summary: In Spite of Ourselves 23:15 What's New 23:30 People and Politics 24:00 World News 66:09 From our own Correspondent 66:30 New Ideas
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MARTYR'S MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM

Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

POPULAR LIFE OF JORDAN MUSEUM

100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc.
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EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of plastic art by the Jordanian artist Mrs. Janet Jubran at the Royal Cultural Centre.
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EXHIBITIONS

* Janet Smith and dancers at the Royal Cultural Centre Friday 15th and Saturday 16th March at 8:00 p.m.

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 33250, 33070, 33082, 33171, where it should always be verified.
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ARRIVALS

09:30 Agaba (RJ)	09:30 Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
09:40 Cairo (RJ)	09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:55 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	09:55 Doha (RJ)
10:20 Cairo (MS)	10:25 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Riyadh (RJ)	10:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)	12:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Moscow (GF)
14:40 Kuwait (KU)	16:00 Baghdad (IA)
17:25 Athens (RJ)	17:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)	18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:45 Tripoli (RJ)	20:40 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:50 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)	00:45 Cairo (RJ)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)	01:30 Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ)

DEPARTURES

05:45 Cairo (RJ)	06:00 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
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MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Hual Liza

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Seminar on Bilad Al Sham opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second symposium of the Fourth International Conference entitled "Bilad Al Sham during the early classical Islamic Period" will be held Saturday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

Taking part in the week-long symposium, which will be presided over by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will be 70 scholars from 38 universities and academic institutions, specialised in the history of Greater Syria (Bilad Al Sham).

Research papers to be presented by participants include various subjects related to the Islamic Arab conquest of Bilad Al Sham, contacts and correspondence between the Prophet Muhammad and Arab tribes in Bilad Al Sham and the formation of Islamic armies.

They also deal with attitudes of the Bilad Al Sham population towards the Islamic conquest and

the Islamic Arab administration of the region in addition to the economic and social life during the period.

The coconvocation of the seminar comes within the framework of the International Conference on Bilad Al Sham, which the three Jordanian universities have been keen on holding since 1972 with the aim of rallying specialised efforts to undertake in-depth research into the subject.

On the sidelines of the symposium four exhibitions will be held. The first will deal with documents of the Swiss orientalist Max van Berchem, the second will be a pictorial exhibition reflecting social and historical culture of Jordan while the third will be a book exhibition and the fourth will be a commercial exhibition.

A special programme of visits by the seminar participants to the historical sites and the tombs of the Prophet Muhammad's companions has also been drawn up.



His Majesty King Hussein receives Djibouti Industry and Industrial Development Minister Fahmi Mohammad Al Haj (Petra photo)

Rawabdeh: Municipality building bridges of confidence with citizens

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality has done its best to build bridges of confidence with the citizen, wherever, he or she lives, within the boundaries of Amman Municipality, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said Friday.

Mr. Rawabdeh was delivering a speech on the occasion of the Arab City Day, which fell on Friday.

Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) celebrates this year's day under the theme "cooperation of citizen and municipality is a basis for city's development and progress".

Mr. Rawabdeh praised the Jordanian citizens, saying that their response exceeded the expectations of Amman Municipality, "because they demonstrated a

high degree of cooperation with the municipality."

The good response demonstrated by our citizens, Mr. Rawabdeh said, prompts us to exert further efforts to get closer to our citizens and to meet their demands.

Speaking about the ACO, Mr. Rawabdeh said it exerts untiring efforts to upgrade the standard of Arab cities and to preserve the Islamic architectural design and to provide good services to citizens.

The organisation also works on adopting the comprehensive planning method to direct the activities and services of cities, in accordance with their economic, social, cultural and environmental situations, Mr. Rawabdeh added. He added that among the other

aims of the organisation are developing and modernising municipal and local institutions and developing and unifying legislations and regulations in relation to municipalities.

The organisation also provides municipalities with loans to enable them to implement their developmental project and encourages cooperation and exchange of expertise among Arab cities.

Speaking about the setup of the organisation, which comprises 350 cities, Mr. Rawabdeh said it is made up of two institutions:

The Arab Cities Development Fund which is based in Kuwait and the Arab Institute for Developing Cities, which is based in Riyadh.

UNEP, Jordan sign agricultural accord

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Jordan have recently signed an agreement to set up a pilot project with a cost of \$1,680,000 to combat arid lands to stem desertification, encroachment and to rehabilitate vegetative cover at 'Lajjun' in the southern part of the Kingdom.

The two-year project, which is expected to start functioning in April 1985, will also help expand grazing fields to develop animal wealth through drilling wells to benefit from ground-water.

Authoritative sources at the Ministry of Planning told the Jordan Times that the implementation of such a scheme in a remote area (Lajjun) aims to

prevent the migration of people away from the region.

The sources said the ministry is studying the feasibility of setting up natural environments to conserve agriculture and animal wealth in rural areas following the example of 'Alshomayr' resort.

According to the sources, the project which will be applied on a 50,000 dunam area expandable to one million dunams, will be executed by cooperation among the Ministries of Planning, Agriculture, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and UNEP.

The pilot project was prompted to provide ground and surface water, to set up flower nurseries by the Ministry of Agriculture, to promote a cooperative movement and improve animal wealth.

The project will be a model

project for neighbouring countries since it will organise land utilisation in support of development targets and as a mean for the conservation of environment.

The project, which is expected to see the light by March 1987, will be financed by the government of Jordan with the equivalent of \$400,000 in local currency, the Arab Gulf Fund (AGF) with \$400,000, U.S. Aid for International Development with \$400,000 and a \$80,000 contribution from the UNEP for administrative cost.

The project will have long-term and short-term objectives. The long-term objective is to establish, on a sufficient scale, a model project for the rehabilitation of degraded rangeland in the low rainfall areas.

Jordan, Italy discuss development schemes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Italy Thursday opened meetings at the Ministry of Agriculture to define development schemes that will be financed by an Italian loan to Jordan, to be spent between

1984-1986.

Teams from both sides discussed projects in agriculture, water and soil development, health and other related areas where the JD 20 million soft-loan will be

spent until the end of 1986.

The loan was agreed on during Italian President Sandro Pertini's visit to Jordan in 1983.

Italy has also agreed to provide Jordan with \$10 million in technical assistance, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

It said that the Italian team accompanied by Jordanian officials and specialists are making field trips to various areas where Jordanian projects are underway with Italian aid which include among others, the Agaba Thermal Power Station, and the Jordanian Ports Corporation in the port city of Agaba.

Professor Kamel Abu Jaber, the centre's director, told the Jordan Times that it is intended to build the centre up as a main regional centre for the study of issues concerning Jordan, Palestine and the Arab World as well as the U.S.A., the Soviet Union and European powers.

In order to fulfill its objectives, the centre may delegate researchers from the university or elsewhere to conduct studies, carry out research and organise conferences, symposiums and courses on matters of domestic, regional or international significance, according to regulations issued by the university.

Publication activities will include the issue of single research papers, handbooks as well as a specialized periodical, the first edition of which is in preparation.

Hussein receives message from Hasan Goulied

Jordan, Djibouti to boost cooperation

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Friday received a message from Djibouti President Ali Haj Hassan Goulied dealing with bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Djibouti Minister of Industry and Industrial Development Fahmi Ahmad Al Haj at an audience with the King at Al Nadwah Palace attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani.

Mr. Haj later left Amman after a four-day visit in which he held talks with Dr. Anani and senior officials on economic and trade relations.

Before his departure, Mr. Haj and Dr. Anani signed the minutes of their meeting's document that calls for regulating economic, trade and technical ties between the two countries.

The document calls for efforts to increase trade between the two countries, to use Djibouti as a base for reexporting Jordanian products to East African, Red Sea and Indian Ocean countries and the continued exchange of trade delegations. It also calls for the setting of a permanent trade exhibition of Jordanian products and

the export to Djibouti of Jordanian agricultural products.

The document also calls for the establishment of regular sea and air routes for transport of goods, development of cooperation in investment, using Jordan's capital and experience for building housing units, establishing a housing bank in Djibouti and studying the construction of an industrial estate complex.

The document also calls for joint studies of industrial projects to manufacture insulating materials, children's food, plastic agricultural houses, textile and other industrial items.

According to the document, Jordan will also send its doctors to Djibouti for developing health services there.

In the field of economic relations, the two sides agreed that the Central Bank of Jordan will grant the Central Bank of Djibouti credit facilities for buying Jordanian goods.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Haj described his visit to Jordan as fruitful and said it

culminated in promoting commercial exchange between the two countries.

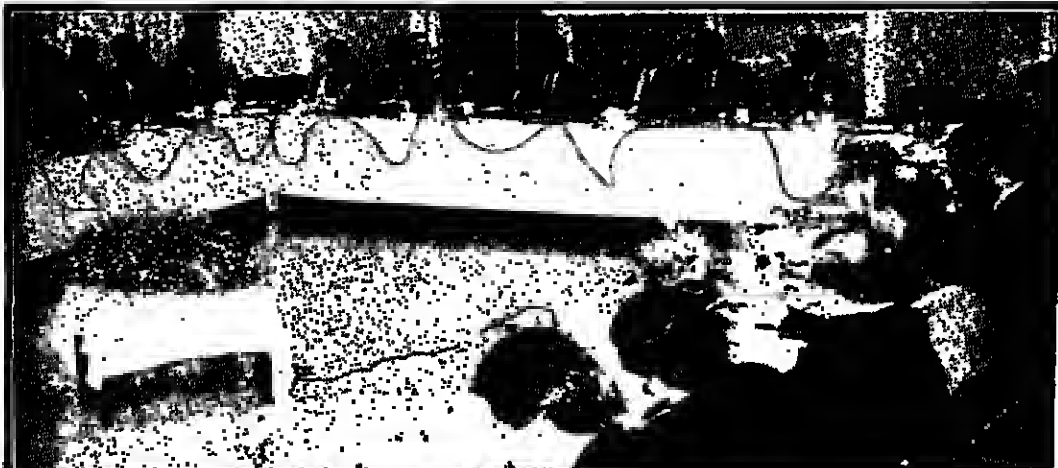
King Hussein expressed readiness and concern to enhance the existing ties between the two countries, he said.

Mr. Haj said the talks he held here also resulted in promoting industries in Djibouti with the aid of Jordanian technical assistance, mainly building materials industry. He also said the talks covered possibilities of increasing Jordan's exports to Djibouti, mainly cement.

Commenting on possibilities of opening a maritime route between Agaba and Djibouti, Mr. Haj said "Djibouti represents the gate to Eastern Africa," and Jordan-Djibouti sea links will provide an entrance to the Kingdom's industrial, and agricultural products to Africa.

"Djibouti's free enterprise system and geographic location make it a vital point in commercial liaison among Jordan, the Red Sea countries and the Indian Ocean," the minister said.

His visit also helped convey to Jordan, Djibouti's need for Jordan's technical expertise in the fields of economy, industry and medicine, he said. He found Jordan was willing to cooperate with Djibouti in such fields, the minister concluded.



Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, representatives and station managers from around the world meet during the opening of the Alia's biennial conference in Amman (Petra photo)

Alia opens Airport Services Conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines has opened its 15th biennial conference to review ways for improving air and ground services and providing more safety for passengers and luggage.

The "Airport Services Conference — 1985", was opened by Alia's Director General Mahmoud Balqas who in a speech at the opening session, called on all Alia ground stations in 39 countries to take whatever measures

necessary to ensure efficient and speedy services in all fields of operations.

Alia's vice-president for services Akel Biltaji said that the conference will draw up plans for the airline's services in the coming two years based on recommendations taken earlier for improving these services for passengers, air-freight, catering and other related functions.

"Services by each Alia ground station are being assessed separately, and all matters connected with passengers, freight, catering services, luggage and safety of passengers are being thoroughly studied with the purpose of arriving at the most up to date methods to be applied by the airline," Mr. Biltaji added.

Attending the conference are representatives of Alia and station managers from 38 stations around the world.

U.N. executing 2 projects in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations is currently executing two rural development projects in support of women in the Jordanian country-side at a cost of \$254,000, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Adnan Raouf.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, he said the two projects aim to establish two social centres at Sama Serhan and Diban.

The centres will be manned and equipped by the U.N. and country women will be provided with sheep to keep and raise.

As for UNDP projects during 1982-1983, he said the most important was a \$45,000 training project where women were trained by local instructors on the maintenance of electrical equipment.

Other projects included the provision of technical equipment

for Princess Sarvath Girls College and the financing of two kindergartens, nursing and home economics training course at the college at a cost of \$45,000.

As for 1981-1982, he said UNDP contributed \$250,000 to Princess Rahma Centre for Development.

The contribution included the provision of a consultant at the centre, provisions for studies and administrative assistance.

University establishes centre for strategic studies

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan University recently established a centre for Strategic Studies. It was opened in 1984 and one of its major aims, according to the regulations issued by the university, is to study political, economic, social and military aspects of issues affecting Jordan and the Arab World and their future.

Professor Kamel Abu Jaber, the centre's director, told the Jordan Times that it is intended to build the centre up as a main regional centre for the study of issues concerning Jordan, Palestine and the Arab World as well as the U.S.A., the Soviet Union and European powers.

In order to fulfill its objectives, the centre may delegate researchers from the university or elsewhere to conduct studies, carry out research and organise conferences, symposiums and courses on matters of domestic, regional or international significance, according to regulations issued by the university.

Cooperation, coordination

The centre works in cooperation and coordination with institutions of similar purposes. It has established relations with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of the West German Free Democratic Party, which has an office in Amman.

Within its short period of existence, the Centre for Strategic Studies has already carried out a number of activities. In February, a conference on "Jordan in the 1990s" dealing with strategic issues was held with scholars from many countries taking part. A study of the Israeli political parties and election results from 1945 onwards carried out by the centre's researchers was recently completed and will be published soon.

This is in line with the further aims set for the centre by the regulations which are in particular to: — Monitor, collate and document all events pertaining to the Palestinian cause, the Arab and the Islamic Worlds.

— Concentrate on Hebrew studies and monitor, collate and document all events relating to Zionism and Israel.

— Study and analyse intellectual, social, economic, political and military trends in the

world — Promote, at the various university departments, specialized studies on Hebrew, Soviet, African and Asian affairs.

International conferences

Professor Abu Jaber, in his capacity as director of the centre, has recently contributed to several international conferences. He submitted a paper on the Iran-Iraq war to a conference held by the South East Asian Institute in Singapore and he lectured on the "Social and Political Implications of Investments in the Arab World" in New York. In a conference organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn, West Germany he expressed Jordan's position concerning the Palestine question.

Presently, the centre is preparing a conference on the strategic importance of the Red Sea in which all countries bordering the Red Sea are to take part. It is scheduled to be held at the end of this year or early in 1986.

The executive council of the centre is composed of eleven members, chaired by the University president and including the centre's director. The other nine members represent the university faculties, other Jordanian universities, government institutions and the private sector. The members are appointed by the Jordan University president for a term of two years.

The executive council, sets the centre's plan and supervises their execution as well as set the centre's budget, which is part of the university budget. The council reports annually on the centre's activities.

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JEA to hold dialogue on transfer of technology

AMMAN (Petra) — An open dialogue on the transfer of technology will be held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Saturday.

The dialogue which will be opened by Mr. Ibrahim Abu Ayyash, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) is expected to be attended by a group of specialists and experts in the field of transfer of technology.

The dialogue is hoped to help Jordan work out priorities for speeding up its economic and social development, according to Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif, who heads a preparatory committee for the Saturday dialogue.

He said that the participants will

discuss the effects of the transfer of technology on the local community, distribution of income, the effect of the "brain drain" on Jordan, the importation of foreign labour, social and economic issues as well as areas affected by the modern technology like industry, energy, water resources, food production and construction.

Mr. Abu Ayyash said that JEA attaches great importance to the transfer of technology because this helps Jordan achieve social development and creates job opportunities. "But such technology should be suitable for the Jordanian environment, traditions and customs."

Farmers offered more incentives to reclaim highlands

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A project for the development of the highland agricultural regions of Jordan has been continuing since 1965 and in 1983 entered its third phase, according to the project manager from the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ahmad Rimawi.

The main purpose of the project, which has been conducted jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Food Programme (WFP), is to reclaim hilly lands and replant fruit trees in the medium-hilly areas and forest trees in the very hilly ones. The project covers the whole country with the exception of the Jordan Valley and the desert. A requirement for the project is that the area receives a minimum of 250 mm of rainfall. This quantity, which is considered insufficient in some very developed countries, is considered optimal in a dry country like Jordan where efforts are made to take advantage of every drop of rain.

Project's purposes

The two main purposes of the project are, in fact, the conservation of rain and the reduction or control of soil erosion. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, only 10 per cent or less of the total country area is arable land, approximately 400,000 dunams, that can be expanded to a maximum of 7-800,000, by irrigation. Two thirds of this area is hilly, and is now either idle or used for cereal production.

Growing cereal in hilly areas, however, is more harmful than useful to farmers, according to

specialists at the ministry. In the first place, it is not economical, and, in second place, it is harmful to the land, because most farmers plough the land against the contours, from the top to the bottom of the hill, a technique which contributes to the erosion of the soil and the wastage of rainwater.

The techniques used in this project include cleaning of the soil from stones, which are then used to build terraces, and contour ploughing in order to conserve water and soil. The best trees for the area are then chosen and seedlings are supplied at a minimal cost, 50 per cent of the regular price to the farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project is dealing with private land. While, at the beginning, the project was advertised to farmers and thoroughly explained through lectures and pamphlets, most farmers are now aware of it and its benefits. Since the beginning of this present phase of the project in 1983, over 4,000 farmers or owners have participated to the project. During the last 20 years, according to government figures, at least 15,000 of them have really benefited from the project.

Success rate

Dr. Rimawi explains that not all projects are successful. He believes that 60 per cent of the projects undertaken during this programme have been truly successful and he considers this a very good percentage considering the dryness of the area, the illiteracy of many farmers and the constraints. In places like Salt and Jerash whole areas have benefited from the programme.

The programme is based in

Amman, with a committee in every district including at least three full-time staff members, which has freedom of making its own decisions regarding the land and the farmers involved. There are 11 units outside Amman.

During the last 20 years, the project has planted about 250,000 dunams with fruit trees and 80-90 per cent of these were olive trees. Next came grape vines, then stone fruit trees and pome fruit trees.

Loans

Although the project is now well-known by farmers, updated information is still distributed at meetings. Financial aid offered by the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) is helping to make loans available for up to 10 years with a 5 years grace period at an interest rate of 6 per cent. This month the period has been extended to no less than 12 years.

Another incentive for farmers is the food aid distributed by the World Food Programme (WFP). The government offers support with technical advice and cash, grants or soft loans. Fencing, in fact, is done totally from government grants and, since 1982, about JD 500,000 were supplied for fencing alone. The government also supplies stones, machines, transportation, and seedlings at 50 per cent of the price. The farmers for their part supply their work or cash or both. The government asks for minimum specifications, but some farmers want to do more, Mr. Rimawi said.

The programme is directed mainly to small farmers with pro-

perties of 50 dunams or less, since large farms usually already have enough resources to implement their lands. Mr. Rimawi said that one main lesson the ministry has learned from less successful projects is to be selective in their choice of farmers. Only the farmers who are truly interested and ready to cooperate can now benefit from this programme. The government decision of not supporting any farmer in advance, but only after they have proven their interest by their work helps in this selection.

More interest from farmers

While in the past there have been more obstacles due to ignorance of farmers and periods of extreme drought in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture said that since 1980 there has been a marked increase of interest shown by farmers, as well as more rainfall to water the land.

The most successful projects have been in Salt and Balqa in the past, but now they are mainly in the Irbid governorate. The reason, according to the ministry, is that there are more farmers in Irbid who themselves work the land and follow the operations personally. The Irbid Governorate includes now about 70 per cent of the present projects. Another 20 per cent is concentrated in the Amman-Balqa Governorate, and the remaining 10 per cent in the south, especially in Tafila where farmers are already used to their work and have experience. Growing fruit trees, the ministry said, is in fact a difficult task which needs qualified farmers. The ministry hopes to continue this project at least until 1988.



Gorbachev takeover signals little change in Geneva

By Sidney Weiland
Reuter

GENEVA — Mikhail Gorbachev's accession to the Kremlin leadership may inject a softer tone into East-West relations, but no early Soviet switch on arms policy should be expected, Western experts said Wednesday.

NATO alliance analysts monitoring U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva rule out any quick shift in foreign policy, but say they are braced for "window dressing" changes to present Kremlin positions in a more attractive way.

Ultimately, the vigour and apparent decisiveness of the new 54-year-old Communist Party chief could rub off on foreign affairs and the arms negotiations, but this will be a protracted process, officials believe.

Most analysts think Soviet positions for the arms talks, which reopened Tuesday after a 15-month break, were worked out long ago, apparently with Mr. Gorbachev's personal involvement, and are unlikely to be quickly changed.

Chief Soviet negotiator Viktor Karpov disclosed here that Mr.

Gorbachev presided over a meeting of the ruling politburo last week at which Soviet delegates received final instructions.

"Gorbachev seems pretty well locked into the Soviet view of the negotiations, unless he has some original thoughts of which we are unaware," a senior official said.

Other diplomats said Mr. Gorbachev could be forced into a reappraisal if the United States produces major new proposals.

The Soviet general secretary, on a visit to London last December, proved just as tough as other Soviet spokesmen in denouncing Pre-

sident Reagan's plans for space-based defences, his Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) as the primary issue at Geneva, and that its efforts to halt the U.S. research programme will take priority over negotiations on strategic and medium-range nuclear missiles.

Diplomats in Geneva and others contacted in NATO capitals cautioned against thinking of Mr. Gorbachev as a "closet liberal" because of his relative youth by Soviet leadership standards, his suave appearance and his direct, more open approach.

They said he must be seen as a product of a deeply entrenched bureaucracy with rigid views, and that he will face resistance from the Kremlin "old guard" if he tries to introduce radical changes.

Mr. Gorbachev is widely expected to make his first moves on economic policy, a field that has lagged for many years.

"I would be flabbergasted if I see any radical departures in their arms control policy," a NATO official said.

But the West should expect a gradual "repackaging" and possible change of style in foreign policy, "designed to show them less hidebound, less turgid and repellent."

There could be problems for the West if Mr. Gorbachev pressed a campaign to suggest a softer, more nuanced line.

Mr. Gorbachev would probably want to give the impression that he was receptive to new ideas, but it was questionable whether any early moves on foreign policy would have real meaning.

Already, his election has ignited renewed speculation about a summit meeting with Mr. Reagan. The president said Tuesday he was ready to meet Mr. Gorbachev "whenever we can," but the White House said that all the factors would have to be weighed, especially whether a summit would be beneficial to world peace.

Western officials said such constraints would also apply with Mr. Gorbachev. His predecessor, Konstantin Chernenko, used similar language as American officials in saying a summit was desirable but needed careful preparation to ensure results.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's Al Ra'i: Egyptian position changing?

PRESIDENT MUBARAK of Egypt in his talks with the American administration warned that U.S. interests will be in grave danger if no speedy solution is found for the Palestine problem. This warning prompts us to ask whether the president's statement was a mere expression of Egypt's dismay over Washington's stand or whether Cairo intends to take the initiative for a new strategy to influence America's policies towards the Middle East.

In either case, the new Egyptian stand is encouraging and marks a new important development, though only the future can reveal the actual intentions of President Mubarak. Yet the Arabs should rally behind Egypt and encourage it to take a leading role to influence America's policies and so reactivate efforts for solving the Palestine problem, despite the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance.

The Arabs should prove to the Americans and the Israelis that they can act as well as warn or issue threats. They have to prove to the enemy that the Arab Nation holds the initiative and will do whatever it can to thwart Israel's attempts to liquidate the Palestine problem.

Al Dustour: Making Israel happy

IT IS not surprising for Israel to voice its delight over Washington's reply to President Hosni Mubarak's proposals as presented to President Reagan in the past week regarding new initiatives to solve the Middle East problem.

Israel considers this negative stand as one that runs in harmony with its own desires and policies in the region. The Israeli leaders considered Washington's reply as an official U.S. policy encouraging them to maintain an aggressive policy and continue to deny the Palestinian people their right to their homeland.

Israel and its ally, the United States, want the Arab Nation to enter negotiations with Israel without prior condition and without any guarantee that Israel will offer the Palestinians their rights. They both want separate negotiations, hoping to deepen the rift among the Arabs, and above all Israel refuses to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a representative of the Palestinian people.

In the light of this situation, we find the Arab peace proposals in complete contradiction with the stands of both Tel Aviv and Washington. The Arabs seek a just and comprehensive peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and seek to regain their rights in Palestine — something strongly opposed by the Arabs' enemies and their allies. If anything, the U.S. reply to Mubarak's proposals has revealed the big gap between the two sides and leaves the matter for the Arab Nation to decide on what to do to establish justice.

Sawt Al Shaab: Does this protect U.S. interests?

WASHINGTON'S DECISION to pull out its Marines from Lebanon marked the first step in its retreat from the Middle East region, following the signing of the strategic alliance agreement with Israel. Since that first step, the U.S. has been continually retreating from this region but at the same time leaving matters more complicated than ever.

Washington was not satisfied with preventing the Soviet Union from assuming any political role to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, but has been exercising pressure on European nations to prevent any contribution to resolving the issue. Thus the United States proved it is not only retreating from earlier promises for helping reestablish peace but also complicating things for those interested in it.

Contradictions in U.S. statements vis-a-vis the Middle East were clear and manifest in what President Reagan says and what his senior aides believe. Reagan has said i.e. that Washington has real interest in a Middle East peace and the recent Arab steps taken in this respect are conducive to such peace. His aides said however that Washington will not play a mediatory role and will leave it up to the parties themselves to arrange a settlement. This American retreat from the Middle East arena and total bias towards Israel can not protect U.S. interests nor can it absolve it from its responsibility.

Thursday's Al Ra'i: Mideast tension suits U.S.?

PRESIDENT HOSNI Mubarak's visit to Washington and his talks with the American administration have failed to dislodge the United States from its hard-line position and its total and blind support for Israel.

President Mubarak had suggested that Washington hold talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in order to pave the way for solving the Palestine problem. In reply, Reagan said that his country would rather see direct Arab-Israeli negotiations. The Reagan reply does not only mean a total support for Israel's aggressive policies in our region but also a rebuff for President Mubarak's efforts that are aimed at establishing a just peace.

Perhaps the American reply was in reaction to Egypt's decision to involve itself with Arab issues designed to achieve success for the Arab efforts. It was also a stab in the back to the Egyptian president and an attempt to thwart all Arab tendency towards peace. This American reply openly reveals the intentions of the American administration to keep the Middle East in a turbulent situation for the benefit of Israel and its desire to see the Arab countries constantly divided and incapable of fulfilling any of their aspirations.

Sawt Al Shaab: New unfriendly gesture

IN A further manifestation of its hostility towards the Arab Nation and total disregard to Arabs' attempts at reaching a just peace, the U.S. administration vetoed a Lebanese resolution calling on the U.N. Security Council to force Israel to refrain from committing criminal actions against the Lebanese people. The veto did not only mean a shirking by Washington of its responsibility towards stability and peace but also an encouragement to Israel to pursue its aggressive policies.

By choosing this wrong stand the U.S. administration has thus opted to remain in the same trench with the Israeli enemy against the Arab Nation, which seeks to establish right and justice. The whole international community has condemned Israeli aggression and demanded a withdrawal of Israeli forces from South Lebanon, where Zionists have been committing massacres, but the United States continues to abet its ally to commit further criminal actions and eloquently expressed that at the council.

As it retreats from its commitments towards establishing peace, the United States is goading its ally to commit more and more atrocities against the Arabs. But Washington is thus risking its interests in the Middle East and its present policies are bound to make the U.S. pay a price that far exceeds what it is paying Israel now to escalate its oppressive policies in the region.

— Arab News



Haitian opinion leaders targeted for persecution

HAITIAN AUTHORITIES single out potential opinion leaders for arbitrary arrest, torture and political killing, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

Journalists, opposition leaders and trade unionists have been targeted by the secret police and President Jean-Claude Duvalier's militia, commonly known as the "tonton macoutes" ("bogymen"), the worldwide human rights movement said in a new report.

Most arrests and detention take place outside any legal framework, "without reference to courts, constitution or law," the report said.

Until 1977, arbitrary arrest, torture and killing were widespread and indiscriminate, affecting thousands of victims, the report said. Since that time, most victims known to Amnesty International appear to have been chosen more selectively. "Disappearance" and death in custody, beatings and other torture have not been reported on the same scale, but still occur.

Political prisoners are often held incommunicado for long periods, asked or almost naked, in damp, dark and dirty cells in the Casernes Dessalines, headquarters of the Service de

(S.D.) the secret police. This barracks, near the presidential palace, is one of the biggest buildings in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Some prisoners have been held for several years without any public acknowledgement of their detention by the authorities. In the relatively few cases in which political prisoners have been given trials and these have been witnessed by international observers, they have not met international standards for fair trial.

Victims include those who stand up for human rights as well as people suspected of challenging the government's policy on other issues. Gerard Duclerville, a lay preacher arrested in December 1982, apparently for his work with the poor, said he was beaten until he asked his torturers to kill him "and get it over with". Released after appeals from the Catholic Church in Haiti and other organisations, he is reported to have oedema skin grafts and other hospital treatment as a result of the beatings.

The work of the only independent human rights group in the country, the Haitian Human Rights League (Ligue haïtienne des droits humains), was almost completely halted after a violent raid by men believed to be "tonton macoutes" in 1979. The attack on a meeting resulted in the death of radio journalist George Michel from head injuries. Dozens of other people were reported injured. Among those beaten up were Salesian Fathers, in whose school the meeting was held.

The report named political prisoners known to have been in prison in recent years who have "disappeared" while in custody.

It cited the testimony of a former soldier and former policeman that prisoners were killed by strangling at police headquarters and their bodies then shot and dumped in a nearby river.

Many people are reported to have been imprisoned for trying to flee the country illegally. Amnesty International quoted eyewitness accounts of such people being arrested and beaten until they were bruised and bloody after bad weather forced their boat back to shore.

Among prisoners of conscience whose cases are described in the report are Sylvio Claude, founder of the opposition Christian Democrat Party, members of his family, his defence lawyer, associates and aides. Others include newspaper, radio and magazine journalists and publishers, and members of the armed forces said to have found in possession of opposition newspapers or accused of contact with the opposition.

Army Sergeant Bienvenue Theodore, seized in 1979, is believed to be still imprisoned without charge or trial after rebuking a soldier who said he wanted to shoot strikers during a labour dispute. Sergeant Theodore was reportedly accused of being a traitor and plotting against the government.

Amnesty International said Wednesday that since its report was written, it had learned of more arrests, including people who took part in church-run projects to help the poor. It received reports of at least 25 arrests in November 1984, including experts working on rural development projects and a protestant minister seized on his return from the U.S.A. The government has released few details on these arrests, most of which are believed to be for non-violent activity — Amnesty International news release.

Lafontaine triumph could swing SPD to the left

By Mark Wood
Reuter

BONN — The victory of anti-NATO radical Oskar Lafontaine in West Germany's Saarland state elections may help to swing the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) to the left and on to a course of outright opposition to U.S. defence policies.

Mr. Lafontaine, 41, Sunday swept a centre-right coalition from office to give the state its first-ever SPD government. Commentators Monday said the long-term impact on the party at a national level could be enormous.

An advocate of West Germany's withdrawal from NATO's military structure and the expulsion of U.S. nuclear forces, Mr. Lafontaine regards his party's present commitment to the alliance as outdated and dangerous.

"A Lafontaine victory at this time, when the SPD is still trying to find its role in the opposition, may push the party irrevocably

towards the neutralist anti-American stand he represents," one radio commentator said.

Western diplomats said Monday that Mr. Lafontaine's triumph would cause unease among Bonn's allies, but added that they were waiting to see if he developed his anti-NATO role.

The right-wing newspaper Die Welt Monday said Mr. Lafontaine would now use his right as state leader to address the Bonn parliament and to launch an onslaught on West Germany's traditional defence and foreign policy positions.

For the past 30 years, the major West German parties have shared a consensus on the country's membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

But Mr. Lafontaine opposes the SPD leaders who have supported that course as much as he opposes the ruling conservatives.

The gifted orator already has a devoted following among younger SPD members and party Chair-

man Willy Brandt, a former chancellor, greeted his victory by describing Mr. Lafontaine as being in the forefront of a new generation of future leaders.

Political analysts said the impact of Mr. Lafontaine's win would be increased by the defeat of former Defence Minister Hans Apel,

a party moderate, in Sunday's state election in West Berlin.

"The fact that Apel has done so badly will discredit the old guard in the SPD. It makes Lafontaine look all the more as if he has arrived on a white charger to rescue the party from oblivion," one diplomat commented.

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LETTERS

People can be much nicer

To the Editor:

I JUST felt a tremendous urge to jot down these few lines, to expose and let out what has been smothering me for quite some time. At the same time, I feel that I have no right to complain, especially now, and deep inside me, I do believe that God will bestow his mercy and blessing on me and relieve me of what is annoying me — the trouble is that there is no specific complaint, but an overall feeling of dissatisfaction with what is going on around me, especially when it comes to friends, family and people that circumstances compel me to see and meet at the office or at home.

God has been so merciful and has taken my hand and slowly and patiently led me onto the right track. I was an obedient and willing lamb and have accepted his guidance. There was hesitation at the beginning, but it seems that God, with his continuous care for people, must have witnessed my misery and saw fit to help and assist me. He must have seen signs of "goodness" in me, and saw that I deserved some of his mercy and blessing. But people who are "good" seem to have no place on this earth and, believe you me, I talk out of a lot of experience. This kind of people are taken for granted and are used, just like a machine, and as long as that machine is useful and in good condition, they go on using it, until the signs of "old age" appear, and finally when there is no hope at all of repairing this machine any longer, it is put away and discarded off as trash.

But a human being is different in that when it is over-used and abused it can at least complain and ask for some kind of rest — if he is blessed with a strong personality, he can raise hell, at the risk of being fired — I think and agree that he should do that, especially when he is deprived of his rights and what is lawfully his. He is entitled to respect and care — and money sometimes, I mean to say never, can or will compensate for the loss of self-esteem or dignity.

Most often, he is being accused of negligence or slackness, while the poor thing is doing his utmost to please and work his health off — expecting a word of thanks and a sign of gratitude — but "no sir" — a word of thanks has become too expensive and too difficult to utter — but what is cheaper and easier to do is pouring a long baroque of criticism. In either case that person is at the mercy of the whim of the man he is working for and people — most of them have no time to praise and lose time in petty words of thanks.

What most people do have the time for is money — lots and lots of it, time to accumulate it as fast as possible — they have become so materialistic, that in their occupation and complete indulgence in that respect, they are apt to lose what God has blessed us with... emotions for others and care for their feelings, and some have even sold their conscience to the devil. Friends to these are friends as long as they are useful to them — even a family could become a scapegoat in the process for the search of that "Goal"... These people intrigue me sometimes, and I ask myself if they think that all that pursuit for that material goal is worth it or not and the more they have, I have noticed, the greed for even much more becomes the only concern and aim in their lives.

I am a great believer in the theory that man is basically born good. Many circumstances arise which might lead him astray and to cause him to shake hands with the devil, who is willing to please and oblige. Some are lucky and persist in keeping their good qualities — even when they pursue fortune and prestige. They do not deviate from the right track but try hard to become rich in the way God wants his creatures to lead.

Hayat M. Abu Zeid,
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**Talking
straight
Marwan
Muasher**

Community activities need better participation

FOR THE past two months, I have been involved in an activity I feel is worth mentioning. It revolves around a group called the Amman Little League, whose objective for several years has been to organize several sports teams (football, basketball and baseball) for age groups ranging from elementary to high school.

The kids playing on these teams do not belong to any one particular school. Interested parents sign up their kids for league play for a nominal fee of JD 7. The league asks several companies in town to sponsor the teams for a promotion fee. Each kid is then assigned to a team, and is given a uniform bearing the sponsor's name.

Volunteer coaches, usually parents, friends or just interested individuals, assume the responsibility of training the kids. The teams go through a

regular season, during which practices are held, games played, and standings kept. In the end, all the kids get to have medals for their participation.

The whole programme, so far as I can see, continues to have tremendous positive results on the children. It acts as a confidence booster for many who are otherwise relatively shy. It teaches kids, at an early age, not only about, say, basketball, but more importantly about how to be a part of a team, how to communicate with each other, and how to channel their individual contributions to the benefit of the whole team.

I write today, however, not so much to talk about the particulars of this programme as much as to point out to what I consider deficiencies in our attitude as grown-ups towards taking part in community activities.

ivities.

First, I want to point out that the organisation of this particular programme was done very efficiently, and with relatively modest funding. The money came from companies operating locally. The courts, playfields and facilities were made available by local schools. The kids all live in Jordan. The organisers, coaches, and parents are all people living in Jordan.

In other words, the whole thing was done locally, with in-house capabilities. And yet there was one interesting phenomenon. Even though most of the participating kids were Jordanian, the percentage of Jordanian coaches, assistant coaches or team mothers was minimal. The percentage of Jordanians taking part in the organisation of the programme was almost non-existent.

This is by no means an angry reaction against such activities by foreigners in Jordan. On the contrary, such individuals are to be highly commended for putting their time and effort towards contributing to community activities in Jordan. If anything, it is a shameful reminder to us as Jordanians, that we continue to be too lazy to take the lead towards upgrading the quality of life here, or often too dependent on others to do so. If this sounds too harsh of a statement, it can best be proved wrong by more Jordanians caring for their society by taking part in more public activities.

The argument has been too often raised that the quality of life here is inferior to some other societies because of the lack of "advanced technology", funding, resources,

or the like. The programme that I have mentioned is a perfect example, however, of an activity that does not need more than a little effort, willingness, and organisation. If some Jordanians approve of such activities by willingly signing up their kids for them, there is little excuse for them not to initiate such and other activities for the benefit of their own kids, let alone that of society.

We have been known to be apathetic about public affairs in general. Our sense of belonging certainly leaves much to be desired. Granted, we sometimes may have reason for such apathy, but for this lack of interest to extend to our homes is verging on the ridiculous.

Jordanians in general are not used to participating in community affairs. Where clubs are

present, they are few in number, often exclusive, and cater for the needs of few. Charity organisations exist, but many lack proper organisation or prosper only because of the efforts of few dedicated members.

In the area of child development, little work is done. The Hay Arts Centre is an example of an institution attempting to contribute in this field, but it is obvious that we need many more such attempts.

A big part of the problem is that parents have traditionally relied on schools and the government for providing children with the proper education and facilities for their development. It goes without saying that with the proper resources, neither schools nor the government can fill the void

properly. It is an arena where the private sector, whether in the form of individuals, groups or institutions, can and should help.

The point that cannot be overstated here is that we need to devote more of our time and effort for public affairs. We cannot continue to only complain about life here or shrug our shoulders off and expect things to improve on their own.

We have been rightly accused of being a society too obsessed with seriousness. Among other reasons, being too indulged in only work is not usually a reason for one to be cheerful about. Participating in community activities, and better yet, helping organise them, may do more than upgrading the quality of life of our children. It may even do wonders to our own.

Channel 6 Preview

Hollywood — heaven for some

THIS UNIQUELY American industry claimed Charlton Heston, as he used the "Tribute to Alfred Hitchcock" last Wednesday, to plug the American Film Institute. This programme, so long and eagerly awaited by this column, turned out to be a sad disaster. The opening clip should have warned us. A scene from the early 1960's series "Hitchcock's Half-Hour" had the master welcoming us "to darkest Hollywood. It's so quiet you can hear a came drop." And bear them we did. After a stream of famous and not so famous film personalities had told us how many films they had acted/produced/edited or whatever, justifying their free meal with a wave and a "Hiya Hitch," we were treated to an insane ten minutes during which a clutch of other personalities passed the microphone and spotlight on to each other, with each one only having enough time to introduce the next. It represented nothing so much as an insane game of "pass the parcel" with a live bomb. Highlight was when it was Sean Connery's turn, and old Alf was seen leaning across the Gregory Peck and whispering frantically. Mr. Connery immediately enlightened us: "Who's that, he asks? It's me

Hitch!" Well, thanks Sean, but if he really was asking you you were the one I doubt that "It's me" really helped him much. What was more likely was that he was asking how much longer he was to be subjected to this torture. Quite some time yet, I'm afraid. He yet had to suffer a French producer who apologised that his English was not very good, and then went on to prove it. For those who managed to stay awake the last five minutes of this grisly charade were a shining gem in this rusty tiara. Hitchcock, who spent most of the programme looking udderly uncomfortable, lumbered to his feet and delivered a speech that in content, wit, pacing and, most telling, dignity, was streets ahead of anything and all that had gone before. Like his art, so the man.

"This uniquely American industry." As an exercise in P.R., this was an unfortunate remark. Germany not only produced the first films ever made, but also provided all the early cinema pioneers in America. France was a cinematic giant at the beginning of this century, and today is still a major force. Even poor old England has occasionally had its two-pennies-worth to offer. (Hitchcock was, of course, British—

himself). But oo: "Uniquely American." So be it. Perhaps Mr. Heston had in mind that uniquely American cinematic experience suffered by stars and producers alike: the black list. From Charlie Chaplin to Joseph Losey all felt the dark hand of Senator Joseph McCarthy and his Senate Committee of Un-American Activities in the 1950's. Those producers who didn't stay in Hollywood, contributing to the endless cycle of ideologically "safe" films which helped make the fifties such a depressing decade for the cinema, fled to Europe. Losey himself made a whole sequence of successful films (The Servant, Blow-up, The Go-Between) far away from Tinseltown. The McCarthy purges had their root of course in the persecution of Alger Hiss ("Coastal Enemies", Tuesday 9:10). Mr. Hiss served as an advisor to President Roosevelt at the Yalta conference and later became director of the Office of Special Political Affairs in the State Department. Last week's episode, (which I only managed to see due to stirring work by my good friend, Belinda — for which, many thanks) demonstrated graphically the paranoia of the times of America towards Communism. Hiss's old friend is sacked by the law firm he works for owing to their subject terror at being seen to be involved in any way with a Communist. When Hiss asks why investigating committee doesn't delve more deeply into whether Chambers/Crossley, "a self-confessed liar, spy and traitor" was ever an alcoholic or had been in a mental home, rather than just taking his word on the subject, they reply that Hiss's accusations are a "typical Communist smear". We also see that Nixon displayed, from an early age, a fond predilection for secret tapes and covert surveillance. (We don't harass hapless civil servants or "bug" telephones in England, of course). For my money, Hiss is innocent. Not only does it seem a bit unjust to expect him to remember exactly what happened to his car fully twelve years before, but someone as shifty looking and ugly — as Chambers simply has to be a bad man. But it is worrying the way that Hiss prevaricates and dodges with his punctiliously "legal" answers. This week's episode is called "Accusation". No doubt all eventually will be revealed; aided by a fine musical score and a broody, tense atmosphere, this series is looking very promising indeed.

But then it needs to be, sandwiched as it is between "Star of the Family" (8:30) and "Hardcastle and McCormick" (7:15). The former's "comedy" label is surely open to a prosecution under the Trades Description Act. This week Jennie gets angry when Daddy encourages Duggie's romance with some girl, but gets annoyed with Jennie going all soppy-eyed over "The Boy-Next-Door". Lots of going-oo about women's rights, but it sounds to me more like a case for early bedtime and no hot milk-for the entire family! "Hardcastle and McCormick" is almost as ridiculous. The sight of a geriatric judge and a hot-rod driver trading wooden dialogue and bad jokes, and playing childish games with each other is complemented by a car chase every seventeen minutes, and old, predictable plots. Last week saw a

reworking of films such as Dirty Harry's "Magnum Force", and "Star Chamber" — the police becoming judge, jury and executioner. Hardcastle thwarted the evil old men who rode about town on their Harley Davidsons, blowing away all and sundry, by the simple means of getting himself patched into Nationwide T.V. This week no doubt, he will become a quarter-back in the superbowl, as he tries to find out who murdered a football player in "Third down and Twenty Years to Life". One thing does puzzle me. With all these dangerous criminals around, how come McCormick can always leave his car unlocked and with the key in the ignition? The answer, probably, is that he is a member of either the Gambino, Cantalupo, or Colombo families, who, according to "Crime Inc." (Sunday 9:10), now own all of America, and possibly the entire Western world. Last week saw their widespread practice of loan-sharking (does this explain Reagan's hiking of interest rates?), how they control all refuse collection, ("as long as they keep it clean I don't care who collects the garbage"), weddings and garment industries coast-to-coast. What was even more chilling was how their control over Newark, New Jersey, "skimming" of profits, and wholesale corruption were a direct cause of the riots there in 1970 and the eventual death of a once-thriving city. Tomorrow's episode is the last in the series — "The Future of Organised Crime". The illegal supply of narcotics has presented opportunities for lucrative profiteering last seen to the days of the prohibition. However, the huge demand for illegal drugs has spawned independent criminal organisations amongst other ethnic American groups. Does the rapid rise of such oew — and equally ruthless — criminal forces represent a serious challenge to the Mafia establishment? Will a struggle for supremacy in the narcotics market result in escalating violence? And what are the future implications for the already hard-pressed law enforcement agencies? Not very good, I sus-

pect.

The rest of this weekend's entertainment has another episode of "Orson Welles's Great Mysteries" at 8:30 tonight — "The Dinner Party". The feature film at 10:15 is "The Double Man". Yul Brynner plays a CIA agent who is trying to find out the cause of his son's death. It's a spy thriller with, apparently, some novel twists. The bald hero is helped through the dangers of the spies by bouncy Britt Ekland.

Apart from "Crime Inc.", tomorrow has "Don't Wait Up" at 8:30. This week poor old Madeline is absent again from Latimer Seior's office and Tom has the bright idea of getting his mother to work as his father's secretary. It's good to see that he is getting his own back on the evil lawyer Harvey Cramer. At 10:15 there's "Scarecrow and Mrs. King" where Amanda and Lee get involved in a shady business involving guttural East Europeans, fat cat bankers and instant chicken.

This week's episode of "Duty Free" (Monday 8:30) is "Bedroom Farce". Amys suspicions are aroused by David and Linda's midnight swim, and stolid old Robert also begins to suspect that they're up to no good. I would have thought that it was obvious from the first episode. In "Sordid and Sexy" (9:10), while Kit goes to strength at the hospital, the re-emergence of Maurice Petreath leads him to a reunion with Molly. But her indepedent ways and views on Women's Liberation only bring him sadness and confusion. It's time for tissues and long faces at 10:15, with the last episode of "The Yellow Rose". A killer from Chance's past comes to the ranch seeking revenge and bent on murder. Will he succeed? Will the Yellow Rose Ranch be bought up by J.R. Ewing? Whatever, I just hope and pray it's not replaced by "Love Boat".

In "Up the Elephant and round the Castle" (Wednesday 8:30) chirpy Jin's Sunday lie-in is constantly interrupted by friends. Cor himney, woecher mate, this is all a bit how's-your-father, innit? There's a documentary at 9:10, a co-production between BBC and Jordan T.V., oo the earth's physical resources. A gloomy, but much needed, warning about the falling reserves of oil, the shameful waste of food, and pollution of the seas and forests. Where



Riding off into the sunset — "The Yellow Rose", Monday 10:15 have all the flowers gone? Killed by acid-rain. No shortage of resources in "Hotel" (10:15) of course. All the guests appear to stay in the ultra expensive suites. All the guests we see, that is. Which is just as well. Witnessing the things that the well-heeled get up to each week it's lucky that we are at least spared the sordid goings-on of the hotel. Gee, Dad, that's a real blow when an old flame of hers arrives and is met with open arms. "Murder She Wrote" at 9:10 soldiers on while at 10:15 there's a real rave from the grave. "The Anatomist" is a BBC play-off-the-month and concerns itself with the juicy subject of Burke and Hare. In the early nineteenth century medical science was a bit short of donor cadavers. The powers that be turned a blind eye to body-snatching (the exhumation of recently interred stiff). However, Burke and Hare got tired of all that spade work and thought that progress would be better served with still-warm samples; so they catered in oo a phase of quick murder and speedy despatch. Yum, Yum.

If you are still not satisfied then there is still Channel 3 "That's Incredible" (Tomorrow, Sunday, 6:10) has loads of the bizarre and the ridiculous. Last week starred a racoon called Roxy, who painted abstracts and washed up afterwards, "Trauma Centre" co-trails on Tuesday at the same time, as does "Moonfleet" oo Wednesday. Blackheads diamond is hidden to a well in Lonsbrooke castle. Unfortunately the castle is full of French prisoners-of-war and guarded day and night by a stoog garrison. John and Elzevir must take great care as they search for the jewel. Have a happy week.

The inimitable Ronnie Barker

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Dirani drives Nissan to Jerash Rally victory

Text and Photos
By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nabil Dirani and co-driver Gordon Almond Friday drove their Nissan RS 240 to victory in the Rothmans-Jerash Rally, the first of three national rallying events of the season.

George Khayyat (co-driver Kieith Ferry) clocked 51 minutes and 0.2 seconds to Dirani's 50 minutes and 30 seconds in an identical car and was placed second, followed by Haiman Mufri (co-driver Bill Gwynne) in a Daihatsu Charmant.

Hamed Ghazi (co-driver Nabil Dabbas), came in fourth in an Opel Manta with a timing of 51 minutes and 36 seconds and Suhail Marar (co-driver Jiries Sawalha) fifth in a Toyota Corolla GT. Emad Jabri (co-driver Mu'awia Zaban) clinched sixth place in a Daihatsu Charmant and the Datsun 160i of Ghazi Zeitoun (co-driver Hisham Zeitoun) was placed seventh.

Nabil Karam, a renowned rally driver since 1981 when the sport was seriously taken up and organised as a regular event by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), secured eighth place in 56 minutes and 31 seconds, despite a minor disaster during the early stages of the race. Karam's car went off the track and had to be pulled out and placed back on course resulting in the enthusiastic driver losing some five minutes.

Others who finished Friday's event were (car, co-driver and timing in brackets): Mithkal Asfour (Volvo 244 — Nicola Bilen — 51:55), Ibrahim Bisharat (Toyota Corolla — Khader Kassir — 58:10), Yazid Abu Jaber (Audi 80 LS — Ibrahim Karaghossian — 1:01:14), Hassan Alaeddin (BMW 320 — Mohammad Shaban — 1:02:12), Ousama Jabbour (Daihatsu Charmant — Walid Mujaher — 1:03:05), Salah Safa (Fiat 131 — Omar Shahin — 1:04:08), George Haddad (Toyota Celica — Fawzi Sawalha — 1:07:14), Mazen Khabbazeh (Peugeot 604 — Jamal Khabbazeh — 1:14:59), Rafa'et Jabri (Fiat Ritmo — Yousef Daoud — 1:25:47) and Nihad Rizk (Toyota Land Cruiser — Adnan As'ad — 1:30:42).

One of the highlights of Friday's event was the relatively high number of participants who managed to make it to the finish line.

Eighteen of the 24 cars flagged off from the RAC at one-minute intervals survived the gruelling 223 kilometres to the Jerash Visitor's Centre and back, manoeuvring through the twisty, mountainous tracks near the King Talal Dam and the dense woods of Dibbin.

George Haddad (co-driver Fawzi Sawalha), one of the early favourites to win the event, suffered a major setback in a special stage near the Zarqa River when his Toyota Celica GT went off the track and landed in a ditch.

"I guess it was due a misjudgement on my part," Haddad told the Jordan Times. "I took a curve a little too fast and the next thing we were stuck in a ditch."

However, Haddad managed to put the vehicle back on the track but not before some 15 precious minutes were wasted.

The mishap cost him the rally, as his overall standing, which was in the top three before the car went off the track, dipped to the last two or three.

"I am now out of contention," Haddad said during the break at Jerash. "Only for the sake of finishing am I continuing the rally."

Most drivers, including the driver of an RAC vehicle which took journalists through the "special stages", agreed that it was driving skill rather than machine power under test on Friday.

"The tracks did not really punish the cars," said Suhail Marar, one of the prominent rally drivers in Jordan. "Everything depended on how the driver could manoeuvre through the sharp curves and uneven roads," he said. "In some other parts, the tracks were slippery, making it difficult for the driver to keep an even pace."

Friday's event was split into two phases. The first phase included five "special stages" through Kasarat Naour, Zai, Bek'a'a, Alouk, and across River Zarqa to the King Talal Dam and Dibbin before reaching the Jerash Visitor's Centre.

The first car, Haddad's Toyota,



Nabil Dirani's Nissan RS 240 (top left) winds its way along a special stage route near King Talal Dam followed by George Khayyat in an identical car (top right) in Friday's Jerash Rally. Runners-up Khayyat relaxes during a break between special stages (bottom left). Even a Volkswagen Beach Buggy (bottom



right) took part in the rally, the first rallying event of the season in Jordan, along with other cars ranging from Toyota Celica, Volvo, BMW and Austin to Morris Mini and Toyota Land Cruiser.

was flagged off at 9.30 a.m. from the RAC. However, because of the mishap near the river, Haddad was delayed and the first car to reach Jerash was Khayyat's Nissan.

The second phase was the return leg to Amman which started at 2.30 p.m. when the cars were flagged off from the ancient Roman city. Khayyat was in pole position at the start of the second phase, according to regulations which stipulate that cars which led the timing score in the first phase will be the ones leading the start-off in the next phase.

In the second phase the special stage at Zai was eliminated because of visibility considerations. All cars, with the exception of those which broke down on route,

returned to the RAC, the first car arriving at 4.30 p.m. Provisional results were announced one hour later.

One of the notable absentees from Friday's event was David Jepson, who won the National Rally Championship last year. Jepson's Talbot Sunbeam was delayed at London Heathrow airport because of shipping procedural problems and the veteran driver had to be on the sidelines Friday in the absence of his vehicle.

This did not discourage the British driver though. He was seen totting a camera and encouraging the drivers with a "V" for victory sign near a special stage through the dusty hillside off the King Talal Dam.

Randa Nahulsi (co-driver Narmann Shayah), the only female driver in Friday's event, did well in the first phase, but had to abandon the race towards the end because of a mechanical problem that hit her Morris Mini 1275 GT.

Michael Saleh, a seasoned rally driver from Kuwait, was also seen busy Friday giving advice to Nabil Karam, who was driving Saleh's Opel Ascona 400. Saleh, who drove a Toyota Celica to fourth place in the Qatar leg of the 1985 Middle East Rally Championship in January, has switched cars.

Saleh described the route selected by the RAC for Friday's event as "excellent".

"The terrain included in Friday's rally demands the best of the driver's skills," he said. "Having a

powerful car does not mean much when you are faced with slippery curves and uneven slopes."

Jerash Rally event was the first of three National Rally Championships scheduled to be held in May and November.

In addition, the Jordan leg of the 1985 Middle East Rally Championship is slated to be held in July when participants from the Gulf Arabs states and possibly Cyprus will match their skill against Jordanian drivers.

"In fact, we have adopted international standards for all national rallies," a senior RAC official told the Jordan Times. "It will help our drivers to upgrade their performances and provide valued experience," he said.

Jordan defeats Qatar in World Cup match

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's World Cup campaign started Friday with a victory against Qatar in an Asian Group One Sub-Group B qualification match.

Jordan secured victory through Issam Al Taly who scored the only goal of the match in the 40th minute of the second half.

A magnificent header by Al Taly from a corner taken by Khalid Awad gave Jordan a much needed triumph against Olympic finalists Qatar.

Jordan dominated the second half with substitute Rafeh Al Dosed playing a leading role in Jordan's continuous pressure at the Qatar goal.

Qatar who arrived here Wednesday night had a tough two-weeks training period in Saudi Arabia playing various teams in preparation for Friday's match, but found a determined Jordanian side a tough nut to crack. (Qatar is also reputed to be a leading soccer power in the Arab Gulf.)

25,000 spectators were treated to a brilliant display of football by both teams, but the Qataris seemed to weaken in the second half giving Jordan a golden opportunity to score their first ever World Cup victory.

Toleman pulls out of Formula One

LONDON (R) — British motor racing team Toleman said that they were withdrawing from the 1985 Formula One World Championship.

The announcement follows months of negotiations which have failed to secure Toleman motorsport a tyre contract for the forthcoming Grand Prix season.

"It's a hard and soul destroying decision to take, but one which we're forced into," Ted Toleman, the group's chairman, said.

Toleman added: "No-one, for reasons best known to themselves, is prepared to supply us with tyres following the withdrawal of Michelin from racing last year and with no tyres, companies are not prepared to support the team commercially."

Toleman motorsport's decision will come as a big disappointment to Sweden's Stefan Johansson already named by the team for the

1985 season — and Northern Irishman John Watson, who was planning a Grand Prix comeback with Toleman this season.

Watson, winner of five Grands Prix, was unable to find a place in last year's World Championship after being replaced by McLaren at the end of the 1983 season.

Toleman managing director Alex Hawkridge said that it was clear the Toleman team "were not wanted in Formula One."

"We have beaten all the big names except McLaren and we have obviously become an embarrassment. According to one source we have become too competitive."

Hawkridge added: "It's taken us four years to fight our way to the front in Formula One and now, just when we are in a position to win races, this happens. Naturally, I'm disappointed and very angry."

Cosmos expelled by NASL

NEW YORK (R) — Professional soccer in the United States, reeling from financial problems, took a step towards extinction Thursday when the North American Soccer League (NASL) expelled the New York Cosmos, its most popular team.

The league's interim president, Clive Toye, said the board of directors had voted to expel the Cosmos for failing to honour a financial commitment for the 1985 outdoor season.

He cited the Cosmos' decision not to post a \$150,000 letter of credit by last December 25 as being "a handicap in the league's efforts to attract new member clubs."

The action effectively ended hopes that the league could draw up a viable schedule for the new season. Only three teams — Toronto, Minnesota and Tulsa — have committed to play.

"The action against the Cosmos is part of our general, overall reorganisation," league spokesman Jim Henderson said.

A statement said "an announcement on the future plans of

the league will be made soon."

The Cosmos' official position was that they would have no comment, coach Ray Kiveckas told Reuters by telephone. But he added the matter was in the hands of the club's attorneys.

"Right now I'm just talking to a gentleman who represents a bunch of players in Europe. As a coach, I'm proceeding with my schedule to get ready for outdoor competition," he said.

The team had already announced plans for a 15-game series of "friendly" matches with international teams outside the auspices of the North American League.

The Cosmos brought the league credibility by signing such international stars as Pelé, Franz Beckenbauer, Trevor Francis and Carlos Alberto. They won more championships — five — than any other team in the league's 15-year history.

In the late 1970s they drew as many as 78,000 fans to league matches while also packing their stadium for games against top international clubs.

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Cinema OPERA

Tel: 25155

THE LAST AMERICAN VIRGIN

(Colour)
Abdall, behind ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- BEICHAH

(Colour)
Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22188

LAWARIS

(Colour)
Performances: 12-3-5-8

Philadelphia

HANKY PANKY

Shows at 3:30/6:30/10:30

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Belgium approves deployment of 16 U.S. nuclear missiles

BRUSSELS (R) — Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said in a prepared statement to parliament Friday Belgium has approved the immediate deployment of 16 new U.S. nuclear missiles in its territory.

His announcement ended five years of uncertainty whether or when Belgium would honour its commitment to site the cruise missiles as part of a NATO plan to counter Soviet SS-20 missiles in Europe, officials said.

Earlier Belgian Defence Minister Freddy Vervaeke told reporters after a crisis meeting of the cabinet late Thursday night: "Belgium's commitments will be respected."

The missiles were due to have been installed by Friday under a

1979 NATO plan to deploy medium-range missiles in five West European nations.

But the issue of whether to deploy deeply divided Belgians and caused severe tensions in the four-party centre-right coalition government of Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.

Mr. Martens said Thursday night the decision of the cabinet had been unanimous but it would not be formally announced until

parliament had been informed later Friday. Sources close to the government said the missiles were likely to start arriving soon.

Of the five West European states due to deploy only the Netherlands has still not decided whether to go ahead.

An anti-nuclear wing of Mr. Martens Social Christian Party had held up the decision on deployment while the rest of the party and the three other coalition partners had been pressing for immediate siting of the weapons.

The government faces a confidence vote on Monday which could still go against it if members of Mr. Martens' Flemish party

defect and vote with the opposition Socialists to underline their objections to the missile deployment and also to budget austerity.

But even if this led to the collapse of the government, which has a six-seat majority, deployment would go ahead and a new government would find it hard to get rid of the missiles, political sources said.

The missile decision will be presented to parliament as part of a package of measures which includes government savings worth \$500 million to keep the budget on target, income tax cuts and anti-poverty plans.

S. Africa denies bail to 8 opponents

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — A court denied bail Friday to eight leading opponents of apartheid three days after the United Nations Security Council condemned South Africa for charging them with treason.

Eight other defendants in the case had previously lost bail applications. The government still has not said publicly what they are charged with.

In South Africa, one can be imprisoned while under investigation or if authorities suspect one might be likely to violate a law. Police do not have to say why or whether someone has been detained.

The eight who were denied bail Friday are members of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a multi-racial coalition opposed to the system in which 5 million whites dominate and deny the vote to

22 million blacks.

Among the accused appearing before Durban regional court Magistrate T.L. Blunden was Albertina Sisulu, 66, an internationally-known opponent of apartheid. Her husband, Walter, is serving a life sentence for trying to overthrow the white government.

Mr. Blunden rejected arguments by Defence lawyer Ismail Muhammad, who said the arrest warrants did not specify what allegedly treasonous act the accused had committed. Mr. Blunden said the law did not demand this.

Others in court were the Rev. Frank Chikane, 34, social worker Cassim Saloojee, 49, mathematics instructor Ismail Muhammad, 54, and trade unionists Sisa Njikelani, 29, Sam Kikine, 36, Isaac Ngobo, 36, and Thozimile Gaweke. All are black, except for Saloojee, who is

classified as Asian — of Indian descent.

On Tuesday, the Security Council called on South Africa to withdraw the charges. The government responded that the arrests reflected police work and not politics.

It was the first time under the administration of President Ronald Reagan that the United States joined in the world body's condemnation. The United States under Mr. Reagan has friendly relations with South Africa and previously abstained from U.N. denunciations of this country.

No trial date has been set for the apartheid opponents, and Nobel Peace Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu has wondered aloud if authorities hoped to use drawn-out court procedures to keep opposition leaders locked up.

Castro denies rift with Moscow

NEW YORK (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro denied in an interview that his failure to attend the funeral of Soviet party chief Konstantin U. Chernenko was a sign of strain in relations with the Soviet Union, the CBS Television Network reported Friday.

Mr. Castro made the remarks during a six-hour interview in Havana with Dan Rather that was concluded Friday morning, the Television Network said.

The Cuban leader "says he is not miffed with the Soviets and not in a pique of any kind, that his decision about not going to Moscow wasn't a signal," Rather said. Mr. Castro said Cuba's relationship with the Soviet Union was never better, CBS said.

Official announcements in the Cuban Communist Party newspaper Granma and on Radio Havana International earlier this week offered no explanation why Mr. Castro instead sent his brother Raul, the vice president and defence minister, to represent Cuba in paying last respects to Mr. Chernenko at Wednesday's funeral.

Fidel Castro went to Moscow for the burials of the previous two Soviet presidents — Leonid Brezhnev in 1982 and Yuri Andropov last year.

After Mr. Chernenko's death was announced Monday, President Castro issued a statement praising the Soviet leader as a great defender of Socialism and worker for world peace.

Some observers had suggested that Fidel Castro's failure to go to the funeral might be a signal to Moscow. A foreign diplomat in Havana, insisting on anonymity, noted that Mr. Castro also stayed away from last year's economic summit of Communist-Bloc nations in Moscow and said Mr. Castro appeared to be trying to assert his independence from the Soviet Union.

Bangladesh closes 3 more colleges

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Three more government-controlled colleges in Bangladesh were closed indefinitely beginning Thursday, the English-language daily, the New Nation reported.

The paper, quoting authorities of the colleges, said students were asked to vacate residential hostels immediately.

Earlier reports said all colleges in the south eastern port city of Chittagong were closed, as well as the country's six universities and six medical colleges, because of troubles on campus.

Marcos dismisses fears of Communist victory

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos has rejected a suggestion by a U.S. defence official that Communist rebels could take over the Philippines within the next five years.

Mr. Marcos said in a statement his government had taken social, political and economic initiatives to combat the growing insurgency. He also said the army was employing more successful tactics against the rebels.

Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage has told a congressional committee that without substantial U.S. assistance, the Philippine military might be unable to defeat the Communist New People's Army (NPA).

Mr. Armitage also said the army alone could not defeat the rebels and basic political and economic reforms were necessary to erode the injustices which fed the insurgency.



SCIENTIFIC TOUR: Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak (right), wife of President Hosni Mubarak as she tours the science museum in London Friday during a three-day visit to London (AP wirephoto)

Thailand will hit hard at Vietnamese but will not cross border, general says

SURIN, Thailand (Agencies) — A top Thai army commander warned Friday that Thai forces will take "fierce measures" against any Vietnamese intruding into Thailand from Kampuchea, but added that Thai forces will not cross the border to fight.

LT-Gen. Pisit Hemabutr, commander of the Second Army region, had told a news conference in Surin Thursday that it was not enough for Thai forces to drive the Vietnamese back into Kampuchea. In the future, Thai forces would have to "expand the area of fighting," he said.

The Associated Press asked Col. Pichai Siripibool, deputy chief of civilian affairs at Surin's Suranaree Field Force, to contact Gen. Pisit at the Second Army region headquarters in Korat and ask him to clarify his remarks. Gen. Pisit returned to Korat after Thursday's tour of the Surin area, where Thai forces have recently clashed with Vietnamese intruders.

Col. Pichai quoted Gen. Pisit as saying: "If Vietnam, who we consider a friendly nation, does not show any intention of being our friend and instead wants to continue its aggressive acts like an enemy, we will be compelled to use fiercer measures to teach Vietnam a lesson."

"However, any military actions

(by Thailand) will be confined to Thai territory. We never intend to go over the border line."

In a protest note delivered Thursday to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Thai Foreign Ministry charged that Vietnamese troops backed by "heavy and continuous" cross-border artillery shelling made a series of incursions into Surin province from March 5 to March 11.

Thai military officers said Hanoi's forces intruded to encircle "Tatum, the base of Kampuchean resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Tatum fell to Hanoi's assault on Monday."

The fighting in the area of the incursion has subsided since Tuesday, but Gen. Pisit told the Thursday news conference that "no more than 200 Vietnamese" remained five to seven kilometres inside Thailand.

He said clashes with the Vietnamese in Surin have left 14 Thai soldiers dead and 105 wounded. The bodies of 135 Vietnamese troops have been found in the area of three strategic hills Hanoi's force tried to seize, he said.

The protest note charged that Vietnamese cross-border shelling from March 5 to March 10 killed two Thai villagers and displaced more than 7,500 inhabitants of Sangkha, Bua Ched and Kab Chera districts.

It also charged that 100 Vietnamese troops on March 4 crossed into Sisaket's Kantharak district about 10 kilometres from the border and captured 62 Thais working in the field. Vietnamese soldiers killed 11 villagers who tried to escape, along with five Thai soldiers who tried to rescue the villagers, the note charged.

Meanwhile, to the south of Surin, Thai military sources said Friday that Vietnam recently has moved reinforcements in place for another round of attacks on guerrillas of another major Kampuchean resistance group.

The Bangkok Post newspaper reported Thursday that the Thai government will keep Supreme Commander Gen. Arthit Kamlang-Ek on active duty for one year beyond his scheduled mandatory retirement in September.

The English-language daily quoted authoritative sources as saying Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prem Tinsulanonda had signed an order extending Gen. Arthit's term as supreme commander and commander-in-chief of the army.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the report.

Gen. Arthit, who turns 60 in August, has been widely tipped as a possible successor to Mr. Prem.

Soviets deploy 414 SS-20s, U.S. says

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has deployed another 18 SS-20 missiles, raising the total to 414, Pentagon officials have said. Richard Burt, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, disclosed the new number to a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) special consultative group in Brussels earlier this week, they said.

Officials in Washington said the higher total was reached when two Soviet bases were activated with nine missile launchers each. The sites of the new units were not disclosed.

Mr. Burt reported to the group as U.S. and Soviet negotiators were opening talks in Geneva to try to find ways to reduce the number of medium-range missiles

based in Europe.

The United States is deploying Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in five Western European nations to counter the new Soviet missiles.

Mr. Burt said in the past that the Soviet Union planned to deploy as many as 500 triple-warhead SS-20s. U.S. plans are to deploy 572 single-warhead Pershing and cruise missiles.

Brazil's president-elect undergoes surgery

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — President-Elect Tancredino Neves underwent emergency surgery early Friday, hours before his inauguration as the country's first civilian president in 21 years, and the government decided to swear in only the vice president.

Outside the hospital where Mr. Neves was reported to be in satisfactory condition after intestinal surgery, press spokesman Antonio Britto said vice president-elect Jose Sarney, a 54-year-old lawyer, politician and author, would become "interim president" of Brazil.

The constitution allows Mr. Neves, a 75-year-old centrist opposition political leader, 10 days to claim his post as chief executive.

"President-Elect Neves is in favourable condition and might leave the hospital today, Friday," Mr. Britto said.

Elaborate inauguration festivities, including a "victory caravan" through the capital and a

samba-backed "joy and democracy party" were canceled.

Mr. Britto said Mr. Sarney would take the oath of office as vice president in Congress and then go to the Planalto to Presidential Palace, two blocks away, to swear in cabinet ministers already named by Mr. Neves.

Later in the day, foreign delegations from more than 100 countries — including several Latin American presidents and U.S. Vice President George Bush — were to pay compliments to the new vice president.

The outgoing military president, Gen. Jose Figueiredo, would not present the traditional green-and-yellow sash of office to Mr. Sarney, Mr. Britto said. It was expected that Mr. Neves would don the sash upon his recovery.

Doctors said Mr. Neves, who was rushed to Brasilia's military base hospital Thursday night, was operated on for an "acute abdominal condition" diagnosed as diverticulitis, an ailment of the

small intestine.

Mr. Sarney was instrumental in getting Mr. Neves elected as president, following a string of five generals who governed Latin America's biggest country following a 1964 right-wing military coup.

Until last year, Mr. Sarney was the head of the military regime's official Social Democratic Party. That party was supposed to control an electoral college that would give rubber stamp approval to the man chosen by the administration to succeed Gen. Figueiredo.

But popular opposition to the generals and the system they implanted grew rapidly. Mr. Sarney and other government-party members crossed over to Mr. Neves, a leader of the opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement Party.

Five of Mr. Neves' cabinet ministers — including outgoing Vice President Aureliano Chaves — are former affiliates of the military-backed party.

Korean court orders death for killer

SEOUL (R) — A Seoul appeal court has imposed the death sentence on a man originally sentenced to life imprisonment for hacking a relative to death with a spade and dumping the body in a mountain ditch. Yun Do-Yong, 32, admitted accidentally killing his wife's brother last May during a violent quarrel over the repayment of a loan, but pleaded not guilty to the charge of premeditated murder. The court noted it was rare for a South Korean higher court to increase a criminal sentence, but said Yun must hang because he did not repent for "the matchlessly heinous crime."

Yun's lawyers said they would appeal to the supreme court against the verdict.

Indians shocked by attempted suttee

NEW DELHI (R) — Indians were shocked by newspaper reports of an attempted "suttee," the ancient but outlawed practice of a widow joining her husband on his funeral pyre, which was prevented only by the quick thinking of a young policeman. The Hindustan Times newspaper, in a front-page report, said about 50,000 people gathered at a village cremation ground in the western desert state of Rajasthan and eagerly waited for flames to consume a 45-year-old widow. The police officer saved her by suggesting that if the widow was indeed a suttee, or virtuous wife, the pyre would light itself. For more than two hours Jaswant Kanwar, in her wedding finery, cradled her husband's body in her lap and waited in vain for the first flame to appear. The delay gave police time to rush reinforcements to the area. They fired in the air and used teargas to save the woman and disperse the crowd which stoned them as they fought their way to the pyre, the Hindustan Times reported.

Thyssen asks ex-wife to return ring

LONDON (R) — Baron Henri Von Thyssen, one of the world's richest men, wants his ex-wife to return \$77 million worth of jewellery including her engagement ring, a court was told. Lawyers for his fourth wife, Baroness Denise Thyssen, told London's appeal court that the 63-year-old Swiss nobleman regarded the \$500,000 ring as "investment jewellery". The 44-year-old Brazilian-born baroness, who divorced Thyssen last year, is suing for provision for herself and their son, Alexander, 10, with whom she lives in Zurich. The couple's financial dispute is to be fought out in the high court later this year but the baroness sought an order forcing her ex-husband to disclose details of his wealth. Thomas Scott Baker, counsel for the baroness, said the baron, who put his income at \$10 million a year, wanted the ring and other jewellery which he valued at \$77 million, plus their \$4.5 million New York apartment.

11 prisoners shot dead in jailbreak

SAO PAULO (R) — Eleven prisoners were shot dead while trying to escape from a prison in Brazil's town of Sorocaba, 120 kilometres west of Sao Paulo, police said. Guards opened fire as 15 prisoners who had tunneled under an outer fence just before dawn were fleeing towards surrounding woodland. Four succeeded in escaping but the others were killed, a police spokesman said. He said the guards had had no option but to open fire. Sao Paulo State Security Secretary Michel Temer told local television that the prisoners were armed with knives and had turned on the wardens.

Chinese auditors find 'irregularities'

PEKING (R) — Chinese auditing offices uncovered "irregularities" totalling 3.34 billion yuan (\$1.3 billion) in 1984, the Workers' Daily has said. About 1.6 billion yuan (\$570 million) was related to excessive operations costs, unreported profits, fake losses, tax evasions and issuing of goods to employees, the New China News Agency (NCNA) quoted the newspaper as saying. The rest was over-spending of funds, rising operational costs and accounting errors, it said. Of the total, 590 million yuan (\$207 million) will be handed over to state finance offices, it said. The report coincided with the publication of speeches by senior Communist Party officials denouncing corruption among leading officials.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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TOO MANY HIGH CARDS!

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K103
♥ A982
♦ A1092
♣ K

EAST
♠ 64
♥ 74
♦ 875
♣ J9832

SOUTH
♠ A9J872
♥ 18
♦ 63
♣ A76

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠.

Most of us grumble chronically about the bad cards we hold. When this hand was over, East could complain that he held too many high cards.

North's jump to four clubs was a splinter bid showing the values for game and a singleton club. That

stirred South enough for him to make a club-sue-bid, and the spade slam was soon reached.

East might have made life easy for his partner by doubling the five heart cue-bid, but West found the lead anyway. Declarer was Richard Popper of Wilmington, Del., and he would have preferred any other lead. He was reluctant to have to rely on the diamond finesse for his slam, so he won the ace of hearts, cashed the king of clubs and crossed to hand with the jack of trumps.

After ruffing his low club, he overtook the king of spades and proceeded to run trumps.

He reduced dummy to four diamonds and East, who had been having some trouble finding discards, kept the king of hearts and three diamonds. When declarer cashed the ace of clubs, East was forced to discard a diamond, for he had to keep his king of hearts to cover declarer's jack.

Reading the position perfectly, declarer exited with his heart. East was forced to win and lead away from his king of diamonds into the table's ace-queen tenace.

Just another everyday slam had come home!